



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support the beach**

1 message

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**Michelle Ahern** <michelle.outlookinn@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 1:39 PM

To whom it may concern,  
My family has lived in Somers since 1915. We have enjoyed Somers beach for generations. The idea that it would become a state park is awesome! As we all know, public access to Flathead Lake is limited. This would allow residents and visitors alike to enjoy a beautiful part of the lake. Please support the proposal and make this park happen!  
Sincerely,  
Michelle Ahern  
Somers resident

March 25, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

RE: **Somers Beach Project**

Dear Martha and Angie,

I support creating a new public access site on the Sliter property along the north shore of Flathead Lake near Somers. This new site would provide much needed public recreational access in this area.

The new public access and state park site would provide 55 acres of land to recreate on year-round, along 0.4 miles of Flathead Lake shoreline. Opportunities like that being proposed on the Sliter property are rare on Flathead Lake, as much of its shoreline has been divided into small lots and developed. Although Flathead Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the western U.S., there are only 13 public access sites along its 185 miles of shoreline, servicing a population of over 100,000 and many tourists.

The existing Somers Fishing Access Site, on the west side of town, is popular and very overcrowded, especially in the summer months with a growing number of users launching boats, swimming, and enjoying the lake. This access site is only two acres in size, with a narrow, short strip (50-75 feet wide and 250 feet long) along a busy highway, and next to a crowded boat ramp used as a swimming area. The site is typically filled to capacity, with boat trailers parked along US Highway 93 as overflow. All this summer activity at this site presents significant safety hazards.

The space available at the current Somers site does not just meet the public demand for desired public use. In addition, year-round access to the north shore is limited, as much of it is within the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area, which is closed to public use between March and July each year to protect migrating and nesting birds. The proposed recreation area and public access to Flathead Lake will be open year-round to the public, and would include desired amenities focused on the community.

I am excited at the prospect of this new, much needed and desired public access on the north shore of Flathead Lake. This project has amazing potential to increase outdoor recreation opportunities on a beautiful jewel in the Flathead Valley for future generations to come. I hope Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board can help facilitate this incredible project.

Sincerely,  
Emailed from Rob & Marcey Anderson  
Bigfork, MT 59911  
406-420-2493 Home



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers Beach State Park**

1 message

**Rob Anderson** <RWAFUN@msn.com>

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 6:33 AM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

This park is much needed to help relieve public pressure on existing facilities along the North end of Flathead Lake. Possible funding drive from local public individuals and Business ? A seasonal boat ramp and parking would be a great asset.

Thank you for all the hard work from you and your staff.

Rob & Marcey Anderson  
Bigfork, Mt. 59911  
406-420-2493 - Home



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**Letter\_of\_Support\_template.docx.doc**

15K



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**I support**

1 message

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**YWAM-Yvette** <yvette.anderson@ywammontana.org>

Wed, Apr 1, 2020 at 12:32 PM

To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Hi!

I just wanted to be in touch to say that the Somers Beach has been such a gift to our family. We have lived in Lakeside for many years and have enjoyed the beach every Spring and during the summer as well.

I am concerned for the welfare of the birds nesting in the area as well.

If there can be balance between care for the birds and people enjoying the area, Our family is in total support of there being a state park.

Thanks so much for providing an opportunity for the public to voice their thoughts.

Kind regards,

Yvette Anderson

Sent from my iPhone

March 28, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

RE: Somers Beach Project

Dear Martha and Angie,

We support creating a new public access site on the Sliter property along the North shore of Flathead Lake near Somers. This new site would provide much needed public recreational access in this area.

The new public access and state park site would provide 55 acres of land to recreate on year-round, along 0.4 miles of Flathead Lake shoreline. Opportunities like that being proposed on the Sliter property are rare on Flathead Lake, as much of its shoreline has been divided into small lots and developed. Although Flathead Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the western U.S., there are only 13 public access sites along its 185 miles of shoreline, servicing a population of over 100,000 and many tourists.

The existing Somers Fishing Access Site, on the West side of town, is popular and very overcrowded, especially in the summer months with a growing number of users launching boats, swimming, and enjoying the lake. This access site is only two acres in size, with a narrow, short strip (50-75 feet wide and 250 feet long) along a busy highway, and next to a crowded boat ramp used as a swimming area. The site is typically filled to capacity, with boat trailers parked along US Highway 93 as overflow. All this summer activity at this site presents significant safety hazards.

The space available at the current Somers site does not just meet the public demand for desired public use. In addition, year-round access to the North shore is limited, as much of it is within the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area, which is closed to public use between March and July each year to protect migrating and nesting birds. The proposed recreation area and public access to Flathead Lake will be open year-round to the public, and would include desired amenities focused on the community.

We are excited at the prospect of this new, much needed and desired public access on the North shore of Flathead Lake. This project has amazing potential to increase outdoor recreation opportunities on a beautiful jewel in the Flathead Valley for future generations to come. I hope Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board can help facilitate this incredible project.

Sincerely,

Ed and Jody Aronson  
125 Tamarack Terrace  
Lakeside, MT



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**FW: somers beach**

1 message

**Doug Averill** <daverill@saddlehorn.com>

Sun, Apr 5, 2020 at 7:12 PM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**From:** Doug Averill**Sent:** Sunday, April 5, 2020 7:11 PM**To:** Protect Somers**Subject:** somers beach

To: Angi Grove,

From: Doug Averill, Flathead Lake Lodge, Bigfork

Please include my comment as very, very much in favor of protecting the Somers Breach in perpetuity. My Parents grew up in the row houses in Somers facing the beach which has special meaning to my family. The Flathead is desperate for more access to the Lake. This beach is ideal as a day use area that would accommodate a large number of visitors with minimal impacts. The sand beach is ideal for family use for small kids, no boating other than paddle boards and lots of picnic, gathering space.

I encourage and effort by State Parks to keep going on preserving the north shore by looking at options how to acquire the 40 acres for sale just west of Bigfork. Create a major park space on both sides of the river would be iconic parks for Montana and one of the finest in America. A special thanks to the Sliter family for considering this.

Respectfully,

Doug Averill

**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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**Somers Beach**

1 message

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**Pattie Baer** <baerpattie@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sun, Mar 22, 2020 at 4:58 PM

Attention: Martha Williams, FWP, and Angie Grove, State Parks.

With our community growing so fast, there is a need for more public recreation area on Flathead Lake. What a nice place for public access (an area where the public already loves to use) is the North Shore Somers Beach. We would very much like to see this area become a year-round state park. Please do what you can to make this happen.



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Year Round Access - Somers Beach

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**Bob Balkenbush** <bob.balkenbush@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 3:24 PM

To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Martha Williams, FWP  
Angie Grove, State Parks

My wife and I are residents of Somers and fully support the idea of making Somers Beach into a year round access site. We recently talked to a member of the Sliter family and were informed that all land used to access the beach is privately owned and part of that land is a superfund site.

I have not seen any plans for this proposed change, but it seems a small portion of land would be needed to provide access to the beach and walking trails along the beach (during high water).

We would love to be able to access Somers Beach on a regular basis without trespassing on private property.

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Regards,

Bob Balkenbush  
406-212-9160  
Tammy Balkenbush  
406-314-9272

Laura Katzman

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**From:** Constanza von der Pahlen <constanza@flatheadlakers.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 7:09 PM  
**To:** Katzman, Laura  
**Subject:** FW: Letter of support for more public access in Somers

Please see letter of support below.  
Constanza

**From:** Johanna Bangeman [mailto:montanalakevacation@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 7:02 PM  
**To:** constanza@flatheadlakers.org  
**Subject:** Letter of support for more public access in Somers

To whom it may concern regarding more public access to Flathead Lake and the area along its North Shore offered by the Sliter family:

I am very familiar with this wonderful area, once seemingly open to the public, and later having the wire gate. Although the Sliter family didn't seem to complain about occasional "trespassers" going around to cross country ski or walk on the exposed North Shore in the winter. It is sandy, rather than rocky, shallow, and a great place for kayakers, swimmers, canoeists, row boats, as well as walkers, hunters, kite flyers, and water fowl. This will be a welcome access to many who prefer to be away from the congestion at the Somers launch which has highway 93 going through all the people parking every which way trying to use the access. I believe I heard Jed at Flathead County Parks say that boat launch was one of the most heavily used parks of Flathead County. And because of the boat launch, major highway, and limited parking, it really isn't the greatest place for swimmers or non-motorized watercraft to mix in. The option for more lake access, especially this north shore property, will open summer fun to many more who love Flathead Lake. I'm grateful to the Sliters for making this property available for public purchase offering more legal public access. It's also wonderful that the bike path leading to Somers, is close to this beach, too, making it a safer place for kids to go to swim! Thanks! Johanna Bangeman



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support for State Park**

1 message

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**Ben Barckholtz** <bbarckholtz@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 8:09 AM

My name is Ben Barckholtz. I am a Lakeside resident, and my family would like to add our names to the list of those supporting the addition of a new Flathead Lake State Park. I would support any project like this, but seeing as this is along our local stretch of shore (and a unique feature that we utilize every year), it is a no brainer. I would like to add that a unique feature of this beach is the ability to walk our dog. If the State Park could maintain some dog-friendly rules and procedures, it would be awesome. In fact, a lack of dog parks and a lack of public access to Flathead Lake are two of my main local concerns. And this has the potential to help with both.

Sincerely,  
Ben Barckholtz



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support letter**

1 message

**Rich** <bassettr7@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 10:05 AM

To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Hi, my name is Richard Bassett and I grew up in Somers during my childhood. One of my favorite things to do this time of year as a kid, when the water was low on Flathead Lake, was to spend days playing in the clay and strolling the beach between Somers and the Waterfowl Protection Area. My friends and I, unbeknownst to us at the time, enjoyed a freedom that has now been continuously restricted over the years due to private development. We have lost countless shoreline access points to enjoy a very special portion of our "land of the free." Somers Beach is one of the last accessible points to enjoy the north shore beach area, and if it ends up in private ownership, will be devastating to thousands of locals, like myself, who still enjoy traveling to this area for simple recreation. There are no local arcades, or literally anything for young teenagers and children to do, and this will, in the long run, contribute to the rising drug and crime rates we see in the area that are directly attributed to rural boredom. This may sound extreme, but it is a simple truth, which we can take a small step to prevent, by allowing continued free access in this community.

Sincerely,

-Rich Bassett  
Former Somers resident.



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Angie Grove and Martha Williams**

1 message

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**Rebecca Bauder** <rcbauder@gmail.com>

Sun, Apr 5, 2020 at 6:23 AM

To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the Somers Beach Park project! It is absolutely critical that we prevent private development of this wild and beautiful place along Flathead Lake, and allow it to be enjoyed by all of us who cherish the breathtaking landscape of where we live. I've walked out there (not sure if I'm trespassing) in every season, and it always feels like I am at some distant seashore—it is so unique. One of the things I've noticed about there, as well as the waterfowl protection zone on the north shore of the lake in Bigfork, is that people who enjoy these spaces treat them with respect and reverence for how special they are. The protection of the entire rivers to lake ecosystem is absolutely essential to protect our lake, and as Whitefish Lake has become congested with second homes and tourists, we surely have learned over the years how quickly locals can be shut out. Thank you! Rebecca Bauder, Bigfork.

**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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**support somers beach**

1 message

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**Michele Binstock** <mbinstock8@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Thu, Mar 26, 2020 at 3:41 PM

As a long time Flathead resident I have frequented the Somers beach and am very grateful for the ability to access the beach.

This letter is a request to continue the access to the beach via private property. The community needs to become involved in maintaining the beach for future use.

A park with maintenance of facilities and clean up would be very advantageous to our community.

Thank you for your consideration to this request.

Regards,

Michele Binstock  
Resident

Laura Katzman

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**From:** dblank1@cyberport.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 5:33 PM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** Somers Beach comment

Dear Angie Grove and Martha Williams,

There have been so many times over the years when I thought of going to the north shore of Flathead Lake for some bird watching and a walk, before I remembered the spring closure. So I mainly end up going there in winter, and still the bird and wildlife are impressive!

It would be great to have a year-round access. There is a tremendous and growing demand for access to Flathead Lake, and our current parks are often filled up. The use is increasing fast at the relatively new North Shore State Park.

So much of the lake shore is lined with houses. Please create the new state park near Somers. This is a fantastic opportunity to retain open space and important habitat.

--D. L. Blank  
Po Box 953  
Whitefish, MT 59937

Laura Katzman

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**From:** April Boveng <bovenga2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 3:41 PM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** Sliters Flathead Lake Public Access Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the plan to create public access to Somers Beach and the north shore of Flathead Lake through the Sliters Flathead Lake Public Access Project.

This beach has been a favorite of all of my family members. My husband grew up frequenting the beach with his family in the 1960's and 70's. We have continued to love this space when it is available; walking, kayaking and picnicking with our own children, and now grandchildren, from the 1980's to present. The beach offers opportunity for precious access to Flathead Lake, as Flathead Valley residents are continually losing our public access points, while simultaneously needing more public spaces due to the growing population of the Valley. Our current access points on Flathead and surrounding lakes are a good indicator of our need to foster, create and protect public access to local recreation opportunities.

Please make the most of this opportunity for all the residents and visitors of the Flathead Valley.

Sincerely,  
April Boveng  
101 Hilltop Ave  
Kalispell, MT 59901

Laura Katzman

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**From:** Sydney Boveng <baxterboveng@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 3:16 PM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** A message in favor of the Sliters Flathead Lake Public Access Project

For the attention of: Angie Grove - Chair, Montana State Parks & Recreation Board; and Martha Williams - Director, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks

Hello,

I'm a 22-year old Kalispell resident writing to you as a plea to work with the Flathead Land Trust and the Sliter Family to convert their 106-acre property in Somers into publicly accessible land.

Like many of my friends and peers, I've been raised to revere and love the incredible resource that is Flathead Lake. This lake is the source of endless healthy recreation, wildlife preservation and education opportunity, economy stimulus from tourist attraction, and a symbol of home. My whole life I have treasured its few public access points, and lamented the lack of more of them. I, like most every local resident I know, believe that a gross proportion of the waterfront on Flathead Lake is private and inaccessible to the public. If you are lucky enough to know someone with an old lakehouse on the beach, you know just how special these historic sites are- but far too many have been established and a good number of these properties are only occupied for a fraction of the year, by people who do not live in this magical place full-time and can't understand what a treasure they are sitting on.

I am sure I'm not telling you anything you aren't already aware of, but please take this message as a reminder of how important public access on Flathead is for those of us who plan to continue living in this amazing valley for many years to come. The young people of this valley, and the poor, or not so well-connected, the disabled, the working class, and the students need more public access to the lake, whether we all realize it yet or not.

Once again, I urge you to work at this project and make the Sliter Family's property a crucial segment of lakefront for the years to come.

Thank you for your time, and the work you do for our land and community- it does not go unappreciated by my generation.

Best,

Sydney Boveng  
(406)871.6234

P.S. If you see segments of this email showing up in other, similar emails, it's because I've invited everyone I know to contribute their support and offered up my email as a template for those who don't feel comfortable writing their own.



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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## State Park Proposal

1 message

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**Asta Bowen** <asta.bowen@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 31, 2020 at 12:20 PM

Dear Angie Grove and Martha Williams:

I have lived in the Somers area (Old Highway neighborhood) since 1983, and the North Shore is truly a treasure.

The proposal to manage and protect this area as a state park is brilliant, and I hope a plan can be designed that will maximize the benefit for all concerned.

The Sliter family has been incredibly generous in allowing past use by the community, but going forward, a resource like this deserves the kind of expertise that your agencies provide across our state. As our population and visitor base continue to grow, the beach and its users (human and otherwise) will benefit enormously from professional management.

Personally, I would volunteer to serve as a citizen representative to assist in the planning/development process. As a long-time resident, and retired teacher from Flathead High, it would be a privilege to help bring this vision into being for the sake of our present and future community.

Thank you so much for your vision and initiative in considering this possibility.

Please put me on your list of locals available to assist in any way needed.

Sincerely,

'Asta

'Asta Bowen  
[234 Old US Highway 93 South](#)  
[Somers MT 59932](#)  
406.250.5415



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## preserve Somers Beach

1 message

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**B bradford-fenchak** <drmelilot@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Tue, Apr 7, 2020 at 11:49 AM

Please do what is necessary to keep access to the NW corner of Flathead Lake and Beach  
B..Bradford and James Fenchak, Kalispell



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**support for Somers Beach**

1 message

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**Trish Brady** <bradyt20@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Tue, Apr 7, 2020 at 12:55 PM

I am writing this letter to voice my support for the creation of the Somers Beach Park. This is a golden opportunity to add public access and recreational opportunities on Flathead lake. There are just a few areas of public access to Flathead Lake and it would be a huge loss to let this area be sold for private development.

The current recreational space in Somers is heavily used and overcrowded during the summer. Creating a Somers Beach Park would be an incredible benefit for our community.

Thank you,  
Patricia Brady



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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## Support for Somers Beach

1 message

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**Steve Brady** <schooner.brady@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 9:11 AM

Attn: Angie Grove, Martha Williams

Dear Angie and Martha,

This note is in support of the proposed Somers Beach State Park. I use the Somers area for hiking, biking, kayaking and hunt on the refuge property nearby. The property under consideration is uniquely located and would be both an excellent addition to the State Park system and a benefit to the wildlife that make use of the area.

Thank you,

Steve Brady

[176 Trailridge Rd, Kalispell, Mt 59901](#)

Laura Katzman

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**From:** Constanza von der Pahlen <constanza@flatheadlakers.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:07 AM  
**To:** Katzman, Laura  
**Subject:** FW: somers site letter of support

FYI-

**From:** Peggy [mailto:peggy@brewmoe.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 9:31 AM  
**To:** constanza@flatheadlakers.org  
**Subject:** somers site

Hello,

I am in favor of the Somer's Beach Project. We really need more access to our beautiful Flathead lake. This a great opportunity to have that access and 55 acres would be great!

Opportunities like that being proposed on the Sliter property are rare on Flathead Lake, as much of its shoreline has been divided into small lots and developed. There are currently only 13 public access sites along the shoreline which is crazy.

The space available at the current Somers site does not just meet the public demand for desired public use. Year-round access to the north shore is limited, as much of it is within the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area, which is closed to public use between March and July each year for bird nesting. The proposed recreation area and public access to Flathead Lake will be open year-round to the public, and would include desired amenities focused on the community.

thank you

Peggy Brewer

Bigfork MT



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Attn: A.Grove, M.Williams: Accept Sliter's offer for Fltd Lk public beach access!**

1 message

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**KalKat B** <kbrittonrn@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Sun, Mar 29, 2020 at 5:53 PM

Please, please, accept the Sliters' offer of land for a public beach access on north shore of Flathead Lake! The launch area in Somers on Hwy 93 is dangerously crowded with boats, swimmers and autos. I fervently agree that the State should accept the land to manage and maintain this public access .

Thank you,

Kathryn M. Britton  
PO Box 9035  
Kalispell, MT 59904



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Somers Beach

1 message

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**Glenda D Brown** <gdylinab2@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 2:24 PM

Hello,

I am EXCITED about this possibility! I was a little girl when mom would take we three little girls to that beach to play and swim! We would ride the logs washed up on the beach, diving in and out of the wood bark chips!! (We were little!)

This would be WONDERFUL!! Please accomplish this wonderful event!

Blessings,  
Glenda Brown

330 Goodrich Rd.  
Kalispell, MT 59901

**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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**Letter in support of my "vacation" beach**

1 message

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**Donna Byrd** <rosariospud@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Sun, Apr 5, 2020 at 11:21 AM

I support the effort to keep this beach open to the public as a State Park. I'm an Oregon resident and value the importance of our open Oregon Beaches. Sharing them with our friends and family has been as important as time spent in Montana with my Whitefish sister Necile Lorang and her friends walking on Somers Beach with their pets.

Donna Byrd  
Eugene, OR

**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Somers Beach Proposal

1 message

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**Sally Cameron-Russell** <sallycameronrussell@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 4:42 PM

Hello,

I am writing in support of the Somers Beach State Park proposal. I think this is a very generous offer by the Sliter Family. This would provide much needed additional access to Flathead Lake for birding, walking and picnicking in the spring and even cross country skiing in the winter. I hope that the respective state agencies and Flathead Land Trust can work with the Sliter Family to bring this to fruition.

Sally Cameron-Russell



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers Beach State Park Concept**

1 message

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**Joseph Carbonari** <carbonarijoe@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 12:32 PM

Tony Carbonari, my step-father, grew up in Somers when the lake was lower, before the dam. He had fond memories of summer days on Somers beach, and perhaps even better ones of Swimmers' island, just a short wade off-shore. It's mostly bare rock with lichens and some scraggly grass in a few rocks and crevices. Enough room and size, however, that a few families, or couples, could manage some semi-privacy.

I didn't see it until I was almost 6. The lake was up by then, the dam built long before. Swimmers' island required at least a modicum of swimming. When we moved here we often sailed out to the island for a little picnic. Once, we left in a hurry as a storm came in. I expect there's still a mushroom anchor or so where you can land a boat ...mostly kayaks and paddle boards now.

There are new memories to be made, new people to make them. There's a shortage of lake access. The Sliter family has made a wonderful offer, not the first time the family has given to the Valley. From Bigfork to Lakeside, the north end of the lake, and the entire valley, has benefited from their generosity.

Let's do our part to make this wonderful State Park concept a reality. Even those Montanans from across the mountains should be able to feel "at home" on a piece of this wonderful lake.

Please try to make it so. We don't mind sharing. :)

Joe Carbonari

t  
Carbonari Associates, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2445  
Kalispell, MT 59903  
[14 Third Street East---Suite 260](#)  
[Kalispell, MT 59901](#)  
406-250-9866 Mobile (Preferred)  
406-755-8941 Office  
[bluemoose@centurylink.net](mailto:bluemoose@centurylink.net)  
[www.carbonariassociates.com](http://www.carbonariassociates.com)



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Vote yes

1 message

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**Susan Caskey** <caskey.susan@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 4:58 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Laura Katzman

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**From:** Anne Castren <castrena@sd5.k12.mt.us>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 5:51 PM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** North shore of Flathead lake

I am writing in support of the creation of a public access sight and new state park land on the north shore of Flathead lake. The Flathead is a growing outdoor community and this opportunity to enhance that aspect of our area seems like something that should not be passed up. By the same token it is important that we protect the wildlife that depends upon this area. Creating a park away from the nesting grounds seems like the perfect way to support our community and safeguard the wildlife.

Anne Castren  
370 Anderson Lane, Kalispell.

Anne Castren  
Kalispell Middle School  
751-3873



"Be kind .. always"



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## State Park Plan

1 message

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**chad castren** <castrenc@cyberport.net>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 5:47 PM

To Angie Grove,

I am writing to support the plan to make Somers Beach a state park. We love to use the beach but access has always been questionable with no trespassing signs by the access near Somers. If it were a state park there would be no question about access. Parking would probably also be better.

Thank You, Chad Castren, Kalispell.



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Protect the beach**

1 message

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**JC** <jeffchadair@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 9:19 AM

We live in a beautiful area but we are constantly watching it become a highly developed city. There will come a Time when outside money will pressure many more public areas to become private, unless our community comes together to make this a place for not just the super rich but for all of us to enjoy. Please protect this rare piece of land. It may not be tomorrow but someday Flathead lake will become a lake Blaine if not protected.



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Somers beach

1 message

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**Michelle Chevalier** <meesh3424@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 24, 2020 at 8:37 PM

Hello, I would love for Somers beach to become a state park! Been going here for years with my daughters, it's one of our favorite places to go! It would be so sad for us to loose that amazing place!  
Michelle Chevalier



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Sliter's Flathead Lake beach property in Somers**

1 message

**Ethan Chute** <lechute@hotmail.com>

Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 10:00 AM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

To whom it may concern:

I am in **FAVOR** of having the Sliter's property be purchased and maintained by the State of Montana. I grew up in the Flathead Valley and the north end of Flathead Lake has always been a special place to me. I have many childhood memories at Somers Beach and with the additional beachfront, this area could be turned into an amazing state park for future generations to enjoy. Flathead Lake is the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River and deserves to have a tranquil location for all, residents and tourists alike, to enjoy the amazing outdoors that the Flathead Valley has to offer. This type of park would potentially bring more economic support to Lakeside and encourage businesses to expand south of Kalispell along Hwy 93 towards Somers. Recently, most of Kalispell's expansion has been north on Hwy 93 and this could help to even out the growth.

Thank you for your time and for taking into consideration this wonderful opportunity the Sliter family has offered our state. Montana is all about the beautiful outdoors and especially, Northwest Montana. If you were to ask most people outside of Montana what their impression of Montana is, they would respond with: "it is so beautiful" or "I have heard it is beautiful". Developing a state park on the north side of Flathead Lake is such a heartwarming thought. I hope it happens! Please help to "make it happen".

With gratitude,  
Ethan Chute



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**in FAVOR****Jessica Chute** <jesschute@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 10:09 AM

To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com, Martha.Williams@mt.gov, ParksBoard@mt.gov

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to voice that I am in **favor** of having the Sliter's property be purchased and maintained by the State of Montana. I am a Montana native who grew up in the Flathead Valley. The north end of Flathead Lake has always been a special place to my family & I---having had many childhood memories spent at Somers Beach. With the additional beachfront, this area could be turned into an amazing state park for future generations to enjoy. We need to preserve our Montana. We are losing so much of our precious land at an alarming rate due to growth & development. Wheat fields that once surrounded our family ranch near Edgerton School is now 0.19 (or less!) acre lots of homes in Buffalo Stage & Glacier Commons subdivisions. Flathead Lake is the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River and deserves to have a tranquil location for all, residents and tourists alike, to enjoy the amazing outdoors that the Flathead Valley has to offer. This type of park would potentially bring more economic support to Lakeside and encourage businesses to expand south of Kalispell along Hwy 93 towards Somers. Recently, most of Kalispell's expansion has been north on Hwy 93 and this could help to even out the growth.

Thank you for your time and for taking into consideration this wonderful opportunity the Sliter's family has offered all of us.

Warmly & with great hope for our Montana,

Jessica Chute

**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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**Beach**

1 message

**Pam** <pamelachute@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 7:52 AM

To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Please add my name to the list of people who want the Sliter's beach property to have public access and be managed as a public place for all.

Pam Chute

198 Granrud Lane

Kalispell, MT

Sent from my iPhone



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**support**

1 message

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**Naomi Claridge** <nclaridge@charter.net>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Thu, Mar 26, 2020 at 3:47 PM

Dear Martha Williams and Angie Grove,

I fully support the combined efforts underway to preserve and protect Somers Beach. I am grateful to the Sliter family for their longstanding support and contributions in our Valley. The beach is so unique and accessible I hope it can be shared with local families for a long time to come. My mother who was born in 1916 and moved to Kalispell in 1918 told us stories of her youth when they would swim and picnic on Somers beach and how far you could walk out in the shallow water, to what is now an island. My husband and I enjoy kayaking along the shoreline in summer. The Flathead Valley is changing rapidly and I see this as a slim window in time to preserve this gem for future generations. It's not often that we have so many individuals, agencies and organizations working together for a good cause. Let's see it through! Thank-you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Naomi Claridge

Somers, MT

Laura Katzman

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**From:** Linda Clark <lmclarkdesign@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 1:24 PM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** Somers Beach/ Sliter Family Donation

Greetings Angie Grove and Martha Williams,

I fully support the proposal to work with the Sliter family and other involved groups to accept the very generous donation of their family land to establish a public park.

I moved to Montana in 1984 and bought a house on Somers Road. A few years later I was fortunate enough to meet Nikki Sliter and we became friends. Ten years later I sold my property to Paul and Elaine Sliter. Through that sale and the included paperwork we discovered the land had been owned by Nikki's grandparents.

Living on Somers Road and having the Sliter's access to the lake was so incredible. The wildlife, pristine bay and surrounding wetlands is a very important part of the Flathead Lake ecosystem . Adding this chunk of land next to the Waterfowl Protection areas would be so valuable.

Giving another access to the lake would help spread out the congestion that is becoming an issue at some of the parks.

Linda Clark  
PO Box 1901  
Whitefish, MT 59937



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**North Shore Protection/Public Lands**

1 message

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**Kirk Cornelius** <kirkwcornelius@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Sun, Mar 29, 2020 at 12:25 PM

Martha,

I hope this note finds you well. I am writing you to extend my support for the preservation and conversion of the Somers Beach land into a state park. I have spent quite a bit of time on that beach and it is truly such a unique and special thing to have in our valley. My brother-in-law remembers as a kid going to the beach with his family, and there were hot-dog vendors and hundreds of people enjoying that beach in the spring months - they are some of his favorite memories as a child growing up in the valley. This is a unique opportunity to extend those memories to future generations. I have a 5 year old who has spent many of her years going to that beach and has already started making memories there. It would be such an amazing part of her life growing up in the valley, to have an ocean-like beach that she could access in a valley like this.

I could go on and on, but I appreciate and respect your time and effort in considering all of the different ideas and opinions surrounding this initiative. Please let me know if there is anything else that I can do to show my support for officially making this land accessible to the public.

Have a great day - thank you!

Kirk Cornelius

April 3, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

RE: Somers Beach Project

Dear Martha and Angie,

I have prepared this letter willingly to acknowledge my full support of the proposed Somers Beach Project. Although I currently reside in Whitefish, I am a former resident of Somers. I am a member of the North Flathead Yacht Club and maintain a sailboat there. I spend a good portion of my summer either at the yacht club in Somers or on the north end of Flathead Lake. Often, I anchor my sailboat off the lakes north shore. This area offers a nice sandy bottom which is great for swimming.

Because I am a member of the yacht club, I have no problem accessing the lake, but unfortunately access for most people is very limited. Providing additional public access to Flathead Lake is needed. This area would provide year-round recreation opportunities. Beach walks are especially good here in the winter and spring when the lake level is low. On a particularly warm weekend day last month I happened to drive by this area and there were dozens of families walking on the beach reminding me of when I would do the same with my children were young. We have a perhaps once in a lifetime opportunity to preserve this beautiful lakefront property for the public enjoyment of generations to come. I cringe at the thought that if we let this opportunity pass a condominium complex is what is likely to exist.

I urge you both to support this endeavor and create a unique a beautiful lakefront park for the people.

Sincerely,



Bill Corwin  
Flathead Land Trust, Board President

Thomas C. Cox  
30351 Osprey Lane  
Polson, MT 59860

March 24, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board  
1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

**RE: Somers Beach Project**

Dear Martha Williams and Angie Grove,

I am writing to support the proposed creation of a State Park and public access site on the north shore of Flathead Lake. We went walking on the north shore beach last Sunday now that the Lake is at low tide. Beautiful.

This project is a unique and timely opportunity to provide much needed public recreational access on the lake, enhance lakeside recreational opportunities, conserve scenic beauty and wildlife habitat, and greatly contribute to the area's quality of life and economy.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas Cox".

Thomas Cox

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Steve & Sue Cummings

1150 N. Somers Rd.  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 250-7237  
soc@montanasky.us

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March 27, 2020

I am writing this letter to support the formation of a state park at Somers Beach. I have lived in Flathead County most of my life. I grew up in the Lower Valley, a farmer's daughter. In the summer, when my dad was busy with the farming or harvesting, my mother often took me and my friends to Somers Beach when it was open to the public. It's a fun beach for kids to wade in shallow water and is home to lots of birds. We knew that back then and I would so much like to have it available to future generations.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Cummings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Sue Cummings



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Protect Somers Beach!!

1 message

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**Olivia Cunningham** <olivia98cunningham@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 24, 2020 at 7:23 PM

I'm sending in my vote for year round public access to somers beach. Let me know how I can help to spread the word or help make this happen!  
-Olivia Cunningham

To: Ms. Angie Grove; Ms. Martha Williams; Mt. FWP

c/o Flathead Land Trust

From: Bill and Sarah Dakin, Bigfork, MT.

Re: Somers Beach State Park proposal

March 29, 2020

Dear Ms's. Grove and Williams:

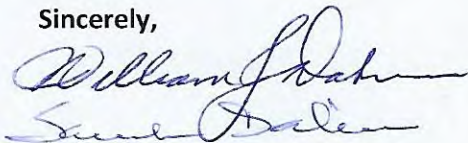
We earnestly advocate for Mt. FWP to pursue this excellent, opportune project. As senior, lifelong Montanans, we are greatly aware of the benefits we have realized in our lives from the legacy of State Parks and Historic Sites that foster understanding and enjoyment of this state's rich natural and cultural legacies. The vision and foresight of generations of your predecessors has enriched the lives of all us who treasure the outdoor heritage that defines the Montana life.

The few rare sites like the Sliter family holding are so tempting for development and profit, or are increasing 'locked away' from the public benefit in private retreats for the ultra-wealthy, that only a public entity such as our state can compete to secure public benefit.

Adding another public access site for Flathead Lake is not only desirable in itself, but will greatly alleviate the crowded conditions in, and denigration from overuse to, the existing Flathead Lake parks that we've all witnessed and are concerned about, particularly at the North end. Our state's population will continue to grow, and the Westerly portion will continue to attract most of that growth. Access to enjoyable outdoor recreation is ever-diminishing because there are more of us. It seems improbable that opportunities such as this, to add to the state's legacy of recreational public access, will come along very often in the face of that growth. This window of opportunity should be utilized, "...for this and future generations."

We are very gratified that this project has come to FWP's attention and that serious consideration is being given to it. Thank you all, and please do proceed to add one more jewel to the state's wonderful public land heritage.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of William J. Dakin and Sarah Dakin in blue ink.

Bill and Sarah Dakin, 477 E. Village Drive, Bigfork, MT. 59911



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Important Public Access, Somers Beach**

1 message

**Rob Davies** <robdavies9@msn.com>

Sun, Mar 29, 2020 at 1:47 PM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: Joyce &lt;joycewhitneydavies@msn.com&gt;

Dear Martha Williams and Angie Grove,

The access at Somers Beach is private and would be an outstanding opportunity for the State of Montana, Parks division, to pick up as a MT FW&P Access Site.

I know legal hoops for land acquisition is a big deal that requires a ton of work for the state, and I know budgets are tight and there is no extra money sitting around to work on this.

But the effort and time it takes to acquire this land by the State will greatly benefit the public today and for many generations in the future.

There are Grants available to develop trailhead and purchase vaulted toilets. I am certain a public friends group would be glad to help with maintenance, clean-up days, and even raise money if necessary. I know the Flathead County Resource Advisory Committee has approximately \$180,000.00 per year in grant money (Secure Rural Schools Act) that could be awarded for trail head development and toilets. They Just funded (in 2019) vaulted toilets at Black tail to Foys, and North Shore Nordic club ski trailheads.

This access site being a non-motorized access, tends to be less impact to resources compared to motorized access. Basically the risk of resource damage to the lake shore is low because the public has to walk in to the shore which highly limits the amount of "stuff" people can carry in.

Thanks for considering the idea of taking over access management of Summer Beach. This is truly a gem of recreation opportunity in the Flathead Valley that seems to be a good fit for your agency to manage.

Please keep me informed if and future correspondence or public meetings, scoping, or outreach that might occur in the future.

Thanks,

Rob Davies and Family

[133 Lidstrom Road](#)

Whitefish, MT

59937



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support for beach**

1 message

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**John de Neeve** <jdeneeve@yahoo.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 11:37 AM

To Angie Grove of Montana State Parks and Martha Williams of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Writing you both to give you my wholehearted support for the preservation of a Somers beach and Public area in the north Flathead lake area. This area has been an important place for my family since the early 1990's , when my two daughters and I would spend hours walking along the expanded beach area in the spring months.

I even remember swimming at the old Somers beach that was there in 1971.

Please keep in touch with me on this great project and let me know if there is anything I can do to help the cause.

Respectfully, John de Neeve, 670 Concord lane, Kalispell, Montana 59901

Sent from my iPad



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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**(no subject)**

1 message

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**Carissa Dennery** <c.denn1985@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sun, Mar 29, 2020 at 10:10 AM

I would love for Somers beach to become a state park.

Sincerely

Carissa Dennery

March 30, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

RE: **Somers Beach Project**

Dear Martha and Angie,

I strongly support creating a new public access site on the Sliter property along the north shore of Flathead Lake near Somers. This new site would provide much needed public recreational access in this area.

The new public access and state park site would provide 55 acres of land to recreate on year-round, along 0.4 miles of Flathead Lake shoreline. Opportunities like that being proposed on the Sliter property are rare on Flathead Lake, as much of its shoreline has been divided into small lots and developed.

The space available at the current Somers access site does not meet the public demand for desired public use, and it is popular, overcrowded, and located on a busy highway. In addition, year-round access to the north shore is limited, as much of it is within the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area, which is closed to public use between March and July each year to protect migrating and nesting birds. The proposed recreation area and public access to Flathead Lake will be open year-round to the public, and would include desired amenities focused on the community.

I am excited at the prospect of this new, much needed and desired public access on the north shore of Flathead Lake. This project has amazing potential to increase outdoor recreation opportunities on a beautiful jewel in the Flathead Valley for future generations to come. I hope Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board can help facilitate this incredible project.

Sincerely,

Hilary, Shawn, Cy, Kurt, and Gregory Devlin  
Bigfork, Montana



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somer Beach**

1 message

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**Anthony Dunkl** <anthonydunkl@gmail.com>

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 11:02 AM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

Angie Grove and Martha Williams,

I am excited to learn this area is being considered for a state park. As a Kalispell resident, my two children and I enjoy this area very much. Between building sand castles and playing tic tac toe in the sand, this area has been a great place to for us to enjoy the outdoors.

I do want to express a concern I always have when going to this area that I believe turning it into a state park will help resolve. When I go out there we bring a bag for trash with us but not just for our trash. We often find broken glass from what looks like bottles on or partially in the sand. My hopes that in making this a state park, the state will help in regulating glass drinks from the area and other trash degenerate citizens may leave behind.

I appreciate the opportunity the public has in being able to express opinions and concerns in this matter.

Thank you,

Anthony Dunkl  
406-407-8101



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Attn: Angie Grove re: Somers Beach**

1 message

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**Steffany Buck** <s\_loganb@yahoo.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 3:33 PM

Hi there!

I just wanted to write as a resident of Montana and lover of the north shore line of flathead lake, to express my support of the Somers Beach State Park proposal. The idea of this land ultimately being privately developed on would be a huge loss to the residents of this valley and I'm so thankful for the heart of the Sliter family to see this land be preserved for public use and enjoyment. Thank you for caring about the input of the Flathead Valley residents and we look forward to seeing this move forward in the direction you are proposing! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further input given.

Sincerely,

Steffany Earll, on behalf of the entire Earll family



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**MT State Park**

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**Patti Eggers** <p.eggers79@outlook.com>

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 8:30 PM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

To Whom it May Concern,

I went to the North Shore in Somers yesterday and it was so crowded with people. Then I found out that we were crossing public land to get to the beach. Since so many people are using his property to get to the beach I think it's time for the state to buy him out so that it could be turned into a State Park so we can continue to be able to access the lake. If you don't buy the land he is going to close it to the public because too many people found out about this beautiful area and the liability is too high for them to continue public use. So I just want to vote for the state to buy the land and turn it into a State Park, so we can continue to use that area to kayak etc.

Thanks so much for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Patti Eggers

Sent from my iPhone

**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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**State park**

1 message

**Karina Ek** <flourishyoga@gmail.com>

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 10:43 AM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

Hello! My family has been enjoying the north shore beach of Flathead lake for over 15 years. As a Flathead native, I find that the Flathead lake shoreline from in the spring season is such a beautiful area... and I have spent some winter days cross country skiing the span of the beach.



Thank you and I appreciate the slitters wanting to help protect the land.

Best,

Karina Ek

--

*Karina Ek*  
*Flourish Yoga*  
*[www.flourish-yoga.com](http://www.flourish-yoga.com)*  
*[flourishyoga@gmail.com](mailto:flourishyoga@gmail.com)*  
*406-212-1958*



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Letter in support of a North Shore Beach State Park**1 message

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**Carrie Eklund** <carriegiordano@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Sun, Mar 22, 2020 at 4:04 PM

Dear Ms. Williams and Ms. Grove,

I am writing in support of the establishment of a Montana State Park on the north shore of Flathead Lake in Somers, developed with support from the Sliters family and BNSF. This is a very popular spring location and is a great place for families to gather. We in the community know that the private landowners are supportive of this, but we would all prefer this to be properly maintained and supported by the state instead of encouraging private trespass.

I look forward to further engaging with the state during the public comment periods as this project moves forward.

Thank you!

-Carrie Eklund  
406-260-8563



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers beach comment attn: Angie Grove**

1 message

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**jonlcgl01@gmail.com** <jonlcgl01@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 1:20 PM

Hello,

My name is Dave Eklund, descendant of the George Eklund family whose home was at the top of 'Pikes Peak'. In my childhood in the '50's, me and my sisters and cousins spent countless hours on Somers beach- swimming, skipping rocks, looking for arrowheads whole or remnants, and trying to avoid the ever present creosole that was used in the process of railroad ties. My grandad worked in the 'company store' and some uncles worked in the mill. I would love to see your project come into fruition and will certainly make a trip back home purely to enjoy it! Many fond memories.

Love and Light to all,

Dave



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**In favor of access to Somers beach**1 message

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**Scott Eklund** <smemontana@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Sun, Mar 22, 2020 at 3:37 PM

Martha Williams and Angie Grove

Our family has been coming to the Somers north shore beach every spring for 9 years. We are part of a play group with local families, and we all look forward to the first warm days of spring when we can all go out and the kids can run and dig in the sand. It is one of our favorite spring activities.

I would love for there to be year-round access to this area. We used to have permission to access the beach across private land from Somers. However, with new development this access is no longer available. We do pass through private property to access the beach, but we would prefer access that did not involve trespassing.

Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to comment on the future use and development of the Somers north shore.

Scott Eklund

March 30, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

**RE: Somers Beach Project**

Dear Martha Williams and Angie Grove,

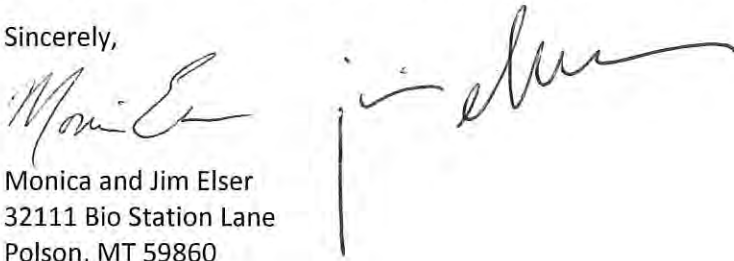
We support creating a new public access site on the Sliter property along the north shore of Flathead Lake near Somers. This new site would provide much needed public recreational access in this area.

Currently there are so few public access sites to Flathead Lake. We live near Yellow Bay State Park and can attest to how crowded and in demand this very small access point is to both boaters and the general public at the picnic/beach/swimming area. The new public access and state park at the Sliter property site would provide 55 acres of land to recreate on year-round, along 0.4 miles of Flathead Lake shoreline. Opportunities like this are rare on Flathead Lake, as much of its shoreline has been divided into small lots and developed.

Whenever we travel around the lake in the summer, we can readily see that the existing Somers Fishing Access Site, is popular and very overcrowded, especially in the summer months with a growing number of users launching boats, swimming, and enjoying the lake. Since most of the population in Flathead County is in the Kalispell area, having an additional recreation opportunity in this area would make sense, especially if it were available year-round.

We are excited at the prospect of this new, much needed and desired public access on the north shore of Flathead Lake. This project has amazing potential to increase outdoor recreation opportunities on a beautiful jewel in the Flathead Valley for future generations to come. I hope Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board can help facilitate this incredible project.

Sincerely,

The block contains two handwritten signatures. The first signature, on the left, is written in dark ink and appears to be 'Monica Elser'. The second signature, on the right, is also in dark ink and appears to be 'Jim Elser'. Both signatures are fluid and cursive.

Monica and Jim Elser  
32111 Bio Station Lane  
Polson, MT 59860



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Protect Summers Beach**

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**Sarai England** <sarai\_england@hotmail.com>

Fri, Mar 27, 2020 at 1:46 PM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

Dear, Martha Williams, FWP and Angie Grove,

As you all may or may not know, growing up in the flathead valley was beyond amazing, always a new adventure each weekend, there were so many hidden treasures. As I got older those treasures were slowly taken away from our community. We have already lost so many remarkable places due to people buying land and closing it off to the public and frankly there isn't many hidden treasures left. I remember going to Ashley lake, Boot Jack lake and so many more that I wish we could return too. I would love to not only share photos and stories of this beach to my future children, but to also be able to take them there and experience the joy and beauty of Summers Beach WITH them. PLEASE don't let them block off this local treasure from us too! We as a community BEG you to let us hold on to what little we have left. PROTECT SUMMERS BEACH for all of us, for all of our children.

Thank you.

Sent from [Outlook](#)

March 25, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

**RE: Somers Beach Project**

Dear Ms. Williams and Ms. Grove,

I support creating a new public access site on the Sliter property along the north shore of Flathead Lake near Somers. This new site would provide much needed public recreational access in this area.

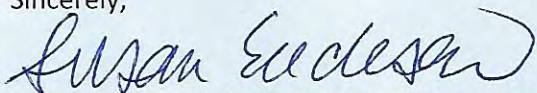
The new public access and state park site would provide 55 acres of land to recreate on year-round, along 0.4 miles of Flathead Lake shoreline. Opportunities like that being proposed on the Sliter property are rare on Flathead Lake, as much of its shoreline has been divided into small lots and developed. Although Flathead Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the western U.S., there are only 13 public access sites along its 185 miles of shoreline, servicing a population of over 100,000 and many tourists.

The existing Somers Fishing Access Site, on the west side of town, is popular and very overcrowded, especially in the summer months with a growing number of users launching boats, swimming, and enjoying the lake. This access site is only two acres in size, with a narrow, short strip (50-75 feet wide and 250 feet long) along a busy highway, and next to a crowded boat ramp used as a swimming area. The site is typically filled to capacity, with boat trailers parked along US Highway 93 as overflow. All this summer activity at this site presents significant safety hazards.

The space available at the current Somers site does not just meet the public demand for desired public use. In addition, year-round access to the north shore is limited, as much of it is within the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area, which is closed to public use between March and July each year to protect migrating and nesting birds. The proposed recreation area and public access to Flathead Lake will be open year-round to the public, and would include desired amenities focused on the community.

I am excited at the prospect of this new, much needed and desired public access on the north shore of Flathead Lake. This project has amazing potential to increase outdoor recreation opportunities on a beautiful jewel in the Flathead Valley for future generations to come. I hope Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board can help facilitate this incredible project.

Sincerely,



Susan Erickson, 313 Montana Landing, Polson, Montana    [susan.erickson85@gmail.com](mailto:susan.erickson85@gmail.com)



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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## Letter of Support

1 message

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**Jonathan Fetter-Vorm** <jonathan.fv@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Sun, Mar 29, 2020 at 8:21 PM

To Martha Williams, FWP and Angie Grove, MT State Parks,

I've used the Somers beach my whole life, and until recently had no idea that it wasn't a public access. It has come to be a part of the community in the Flathead.

But I see now, as an adult and as a resident of Somers, the toll that this ad hoc public use has taken. Soil erosion, garbage, habitat destruction -- these are all the side-effects of not having clearly marked trails or garbage cans. The locals do what they can to pick up litter, but there's a limit to how much we can do.

I'm a strong supporter of turning this land into a public park. Flathead lake has far too few points of public access, and those are overcrowded.

That said, my support has some qualifications:

- It is not a good site for a boat launch since it is far too shallow
- It is important habitat for wildlife, from migrating birds to deer and bears. Any improvements should be done with habitat conservation in mind.
- It should **not** be a campground. The area is too buggy for most of the summer, since it's on a wetland. And because I live next door, I can say from experience that sound travels far. We can hear every word spoken by folks down there. I would hate to see it get 24-hour use.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments,

Jonathan Fetter-Vorm

Laura Katzman

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**From:** Andrea at Sliters <[andrea@sliters.com](mailto:andrea@sliters.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 8, 2020 7:14 PM  
**To:** [lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org](mailto:lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Yes, to a Public Park!

There are still a few coming. Thank you, Laura!

Sent from my iPhone, so spelling errors are likely

Andrea Sliter Goudge  
Chief Financial Officer  
SLITERS Lumber & Building Supply  
Mobile: 480-316-9781

Begin forwarded message:

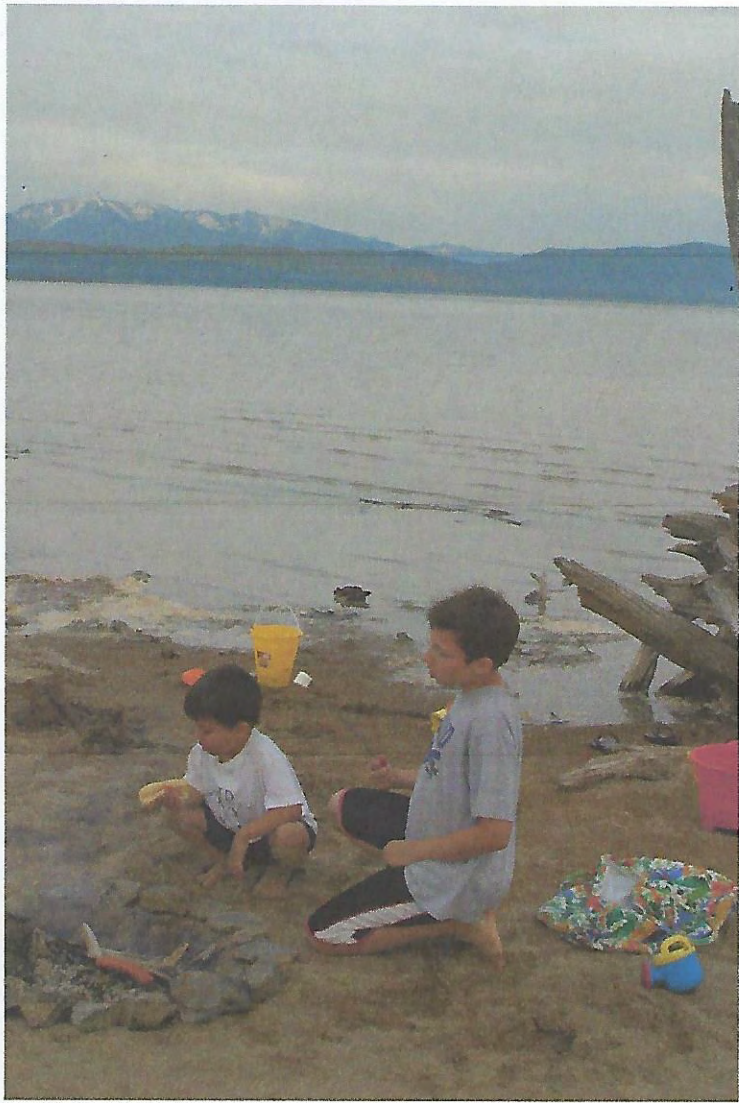
**From:** Michelle Fetveit <[mfetveit@gmail.com](mailto:mfetveit@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 8, 2020 at 6:48:01 PM MDT  
**To:** [andrea@sliters.com](mailto:andrea@sliters.com)  
**Subject:** Yes, to a Public Park!

To Whom it May Concern:

We are in favor of Somer's Beach becoming a state park. Our family has visited it for over four generations. Our great grandparents used to celebrate Fourth of July on the beach before the dam was erected. It is a special treasure that our family loves and enjoys. Please make this special place a state park for all to enjoy for generations to come!

Sincerely,  
David & Michelle Fetveit

This picture is from 2007; our family enjoying the beach on May 7th!





andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Please consider**

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**Margie Fiedler** <margie@flbc.net>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 24, 2020 at 12:56 PM

Protecting Somers beach and making it a state park! It would be wonderful to have oversight of this amazing property!!

--

Margie P. Fiedler  
Executive Director  
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp  
603 S. Main St.  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
406-752-6602 Office  
406-890-0662 Cell  
[www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net)



*"To experience Christ's grace through meaningful relationships, shared adventures and purposeful service."*



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**State park**

1 message

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**LEE and GENA FISCHER** <genafischer@msn.com>

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 11:40 AM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

To whom it may concern, I am writing in support of turning Somers Beach into a state park. We have always enjoyed our visits to this beautiful, unique beach, and have always appreciated the family for allowing their neighbors access to this very special place. If turned into a state park people can start appreciating its beauty even more by throwing away their trash and keeping it a beautiful place for everyone. So, yes, my family is 100% supportive of this, and thanks everyone involved trying to make this happen. Sincerely, Gena Fischer

Sent from my iPhone



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers Beach public access**

1 message

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**McKenna Flannigan** <kennaroseflannigan@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 12:20 PM

Dear Ms. Grove and Ms. Williams,

I am writing in support of the proposition to create a State Park at the north end of Flathead Lake in Somers. In addition to being a very special and unique lake access that is well suited to recreation and loved by people all over the valley, this north shore beach area holds tremendous ecological importance. The designation of this area as a state park would protect it from any potential future sale and development, and preserve it as crucial wildlife habitat. Not only would this decision benefit the community of Somers and the Flathead Valley as a whole, it would also ensure the conservation of this incredible habitat for the foreseeable future.

Thank you!

- McKenna Flannigan

[kennaroseflannigan@gmail.com](mailto:kennaroseflannigan@gmail.com)



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## State park on Flathead's North shore

1 message

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**Tyne Flannigan** <tyne.flannigan@yahoo.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 6:21 PM

Dear Ms. Grove and Ms. Williams,

I am writing in support of creating a state park on Flathead's north shore with land donated to the state by the Sliter family.

Sincerely,

Tyne Flannigan  
Somers, MT

Sent from my iPhone

March 26, 2020

Martha Williams, Director

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks

Dear Ms. Williams,

I am writing this letter in support of making Somers Beach a year-round public access for the many folks who have enjoyed this area of Flathead Lake and hope to continue to enjoy it. This part of the lake would be a great gift to the public for use just due to the fact that there isn't much public use available on Flathead Lake. In making this area a State Park would allow conserving this 106 acre property for eternity and allowing recreational access for the public as well as protecting water quality, bird and wildlife habitat, as well as beautiful open space. So many of us enjoy the outdoors and would love the privilege to continue doing so through the use of this property as a State Park.

Thank you so much for your serious consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Cindy Foley

203 FoxHill Drive

Kalispell, MT 59901

March 30, 2020  
285 Shooting Star Drive  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

**RE: Somers Beach Project**

Dear Ms. Williams & Ms. Grove,

I support creating a new public access site on the Sliter property along the north shore of Flathead Lake near Somers. This new site would help to meet the demand for public use in that area, a demand that is sure to grow rapidly in the coming years.

So much of Flathead Lake is now privately owned making the potential for this new public access a rare opportunity for the public to recreate on the Lake. There are currently only 13 public access sites along Flathead Lake's 185 miles of shoreline, servicing a population of over 100,000 and many tourists. The 55 acres of land along 0.4 miles of Flathead Lake shoreline would provide year-round recreation opportunities.

The existing Somers Fishing Access Site, on the west side of town, is popular and very overcrowded, especially in the summer months with a growing number of users launching boats, swimming, and enjoying the Lake. When I drive through that area in the summer I am always concerned for the safety of the pedestrians, as well as traffic safety. The site is typically filled to capacity, with boat trailers parked along US Highway 93 as overflow.

This is a much needed and desired public access on the north shore of Flathead Lake and has great potential to increase outdoor recreation for many future generations. Please say "Yes" to being part of the collaborative effort of facilitating this beneficial project.

Sincerely,  
Shirley Folkwein



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers Beach State Park**

1 message

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**Nancy Folz-Murphy** <Folz-Murphy@msn.com>

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 10:55 AM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

Love this idea! There should be better public access to the the north end of Flathead Lake and it seems to be that just about anything would be better than that tiny strip of land we call Somers Beach today. What we have today can't really be considered a safe, family friendly place to spend the day although god knows, they try.

Highway 93 is way too close and if there was ever a case where a big truck accidentally misses the curve and plows into the "beach", it would be disastrous. Anyone there would be caught in the way, and there could be many who would not survive. There have already been too many accidents down there due to traffic and congestion - not surprising because highway 93 is a major highway!!!!

But the best reasons for this park aren't because the current 'beach' is so lacking. Can't you just picture families enjoying the day on a broad, safe beach where people could actually walk in the sand, children could dig in the sand and build sand castles, swimmers and non-swimmers could cool off on a hot day, blankets could be spread out for picnics..... It's all kinds of wonderful to imagine this kind of relaxing day at the beach for the people in our area vs. the kind of day at our current beach where can hardly hear over the noise of the traffic on 93.

This state park could introduce more traffic in Somers but I believe it could help boost the economy in many small and maybe big ways. It's wonderful idea!

Carol Fontaine  
135 W Reserve Drive  
Kalispell, MT 59901

7 April 2020

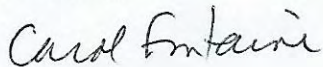
Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Fish & Wildlife

Dear Ms. Grove:

I am writing to let you know of my wholehearted support for the "Somers Beach" project, a project to turn the "Somers Beach" on Flathead Lake into a state park. Montana has a wonderful opportunity to add to the quality of life for residents with this project. This would save 106 acres on Flathead Lake from commercial development and would provide for quality recreation as well as safer recreation for residents. This project would also protect more habitat, shoreline and wetlands for our wildlife.

I encourage you, your department and the state of Montana to move forward with the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Fontaine".

Carol Fontaine



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support of Somers Beach Park**

1 message

**RANDA FROEBEL** <racosh@msn.com>

Tue, Apr 7, 2020 at 10:44 AM

To: "protectsomersbeach@gmail.com" &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

Angie Grove, Montana State Parks and Recreation Board  
Martha Williams, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks

I write to you in strong support of the proposed Somers Beach State Park. Public access to Flathead Lake is at a minimum and the public sites are experiencing tremendous pressure. As a Montana State Park, visitors to Flathead Lake could enjoy year-round access to the lake and recreational opportunities that do not currently exist. No where on the lake is there public access to a sand beach during low water times.

The public access site off highway 93 and Volunteer Park is Lakeside are incredibly crowded and this would alleviate the pressure on these two sites.

There needs to be more public access to Flathead Lake, not more development. The State has an opportunity to step up and save this beautiful site as a public park for the benefit and enjoyment of all people. Please do not pass on this opportunity.

Thank you,  
Randa Froebel  
Lakeside, MT



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**We support Somers beach**

1 message

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**Amy Gardner** <amysuegardner@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 31, 2020 at 10:12 PM

To: "protectsomersbeach@gmail.com" &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

To all concerned,

I remember exploring the north shore of Flathead Lake with my brother as a little girl. Now every spring, my five boys spend countless hours digging, running, swimming, and exploring together on this same beach that the Sliters family has so generously allowed access. It is honestly on my top-five list for my favorite places in the entire world! I am thrilled to hear they are working to turn it into a public park and wholeheartedly support this endeavor. I look forward to taking my grand babies there someday!

Thanks, the Gardner Family



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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**Attention: Angie Grove with Montana State Parks/Recreation Board and Martha Williams with MFWP**

1 message

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**Gretchen Goodson** <coyote@cyberport.net>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sun, Apr 5, 2020 at 10:02 AM

Hello Angie and Martha

I am in favor of the Somers Beach state park proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Gretchen Goodson

Laura Katzman

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**From:** Jonathan Goodson <mrgoodson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 1:46 PM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** Somers beach

Dear Flathead Land Trust,

I enthusiastically support the creation of a restricted "Somers Beach" parcel as described in your recent email.

Good luck with the project!

Jonathan Goodson  
300 Landmark Ln  
Bigfork MT 59911

Laura Katzman

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**From:** Gayle Graf <gaylesgraf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 5:12 PM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** Somers Beach Project

Hooray! I am so happy to hear that this project in conjunction with organizations like Flathead Land Trust is looking to move forward. I am a Somers resident who lives up Boon Road and have been a witness to the recent overuse of The Somer's swim area and boat launch. I am a member of the Flathead Lakers, the Somers Lakeside Chamber of Commerce, and also on the Board at North Flathead Yacht Club. I take pride in the conservancy of our lake and see a definite need for lake access in both Somers and Lakeside.

I do, however worry about increased traffic through the town of Somers from both the West and North. Thank you for giving residents and other stakeholders this opportunity for input as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Gayle Graf

111 Woodcrest Ln  
Somers, MT 59932



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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## Somers Beach Proposal

1 message

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**Maggie Graham** <cohomt@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 31, 2020 at 4:29 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been a resident of Somers for 15 years and one of my favorite locations in this entire valley is the beautiful north shore of Somers. It is a beautiful area where we love taking walks with friends and neighbors. While I would like to advocate for the Somers beach to be protected and supported as a state park, I also have a few concerns. Public access to Flathead Lake has become very limited and with time it has also become very congested. I would recommend that the beach access stay limited to foot traffic to prevent heavy traffic and congestion. A restroom and garbage facility would obviously be essential as well. Also, adequate parking is a concern as the beach gains popularity. I would hope that Somers Beach could become a state park and asset to our community with appropriate planning and basic park amenities. Thank you, Maggie Graham, Burns St. Somers, MT



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers Beach Support**1 message

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**Jack Griffith** <jgriffith1989@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Tue, Apr 7, 2020 at 9:56 PM

April 7, 2020

Angie Grove, Chair, Montana State Parks and Recreation Board  
Martha Williams, Director, MFWP

This letter is to show my strong support for the Somers Beach state park proposal. The very generous offer by the Sliter family through the Flathead Land Trust program would significantly increase much needed public access to Flathead Lake and should be approved.

As noted in the Flathead Beacon article, Flathead Lake is the largest freshwater lake in the western U.S., but incredibly only provides Flathead Valley residents and visitors 13 public access sites along 185 miles of shoreline. Only a relatively small number of people can afford to own a home or cabin on this shoreline and it doesn't seem fair to the vast majority of citizens to deny them easy access and parking to our iconic lake.

Let's take the necessary actions to allow Somers Beach to be a state park in the not too distant future that current and future generations can enjoy.

JOHN GRIFFITH  
Lakeside



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**ATTN: Angie Grove, Montana State Parks & Recreation Board; Martha Williams, Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks**

1 message

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**Marie Habener** <anatnommarie@yahoo.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 3:49 PM

Though I live in SW Montana, I frequently recreate in the Flathead area. Expanding and improving this site for public access is critical for those of us without private access to Flathead Lake.

Preserving public access to our Montana treasures is an issue critical to all Montanans, not just those who live in the Flathead area. Please count my voice on the side of acquisition, upgrade and preservation of this access for all Montanans!

Marie Habener  
227 E. Virginia St.  
Dillon, MT. 59725  
Sent from my iPhone



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers Beach Martha Williams and Angie Grove**1 message

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**Barbara Hall** <eabajata@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 24, 2020 at 1:00 PM

Hello.

I fully support year round public access to Somers Beach. This is especially important at this time in history with everything that is going on in the world. For the health and well-being of humans, nature must be made accessible all year. We as a culture do this for wild animals, so if we want humans to thrive emotionally, physically, and emotionally it only makes sense to make the beach available.

I lived in Somers near the beach for 5 years and noticed that the beach is only used moderately on hot days, and in the spring on weekends. The rest of the time there are very few people that visit the beach. So overall the impact is extremely small especially given the size of the beach.

The joy of the children who can run freely to their hearts content is a "good enough" reason alone because as we all know happy children make happy adults (who will ultimately run our world).

Please continue to make the beach accessible. THANK YOU for attending to this. It is important to us all even if we do not use the beach.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hall



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Beach Access**

1 message

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**somersgarlic@bresnan.net** <somersgarlic@bresnan.net>

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 4:03 PM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

Greetings,

Thank you for extending the time frame for submitting comments regarding access to Somers Beach. As a native Montanan and long time resident of Somers I support year round access to Somers Beach. Flathead Lake has over 185 miles of shoreline but there is little access, especially in the Somers Area. The Somers Boat Landing is nice but it is woefully inadequate to safely handle the demands it experiences, having another access on the North Shore would alleviate a good deal of congestion.

The water levels on the Somers Beach fluctuates quite a bit, and in my opinion, having a launch for motorized boats is not feasible. The Somers Boat Landing sees a variety of uses, be it boaters, swimmers, non-motorized watercraft, or people using the shore line for a stroll, creating an additional area for non-motorized watercraft that emphasizes responsible use would be beneficial for a large number of lake users. Responsible use being pets on leashes at all times, cleaning up after a pet, adequate restroom facilities, no fireworks and a pack it in pack it out for trash and garbage.

Thank you for your time and again I support public access at the Somers Beach.

Respectfully,

Randall Hansen



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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## Support for the Beach Access

1 message

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**Melissa Harbin** <mharbin225@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Sun, Mar 22, 2020 at 3:48 PM

I'm writing to express my support and wishes for more close and direct access to Somers Beach. Unfortunately without traveling many miles, going thru the private property is the only way to access the beach. I try to honor private property signs but this is one area that everyone seems to follow the crowds. I hope the state will listen and consider making this public access and a state park. On a day of lockdowns due to Covid19 there were many people out taking advantage of the sunshine, fresh air and distances between each other it would be great if this was a state park.

Please consider.

Thank you,  
Melissa Harbin

Sent from my iPad

3/26/2020

Angie Grove - Chair, Montana State Parks & Recreation Board  
Martha Williams - Director, Montana Fish Wildlife and Park

RE: New Public Recreational Access on Flathead Lake

Angie and Martha,

I am writing to express my full support of the proposed new public access and park along the **north shore of Flathead Lake, or “Somers Beach.” This place is treasured by locals and tourists** alike, and holds ecological importance for the birds and wildlife native to our valley, and the **‘tourists’ just passing through on their migration.**

Somers Beach is a unique area year-round, but I am particularly fond of it this time of year (early spring) when the water is low and the vast sand beach is unlike any other place in Western Montana. As I write this, we have been social distancing due to Covid-19 for over a week, and our highlight amidst this all was a family trip to Somers Beach last weekend where we could **enjoy the beauty of Flathead Lake and ‘company’ of our community, while still maintaining our** distance. It was clear by the folks who flocked to Somers Beach that day, just how important it is to our sense of place, particularly in a time where our world feels upside down.

As residents of Flathead County, we are no strangers to the rapid growth and expansion in this valley. Now, more than ever, we need the champions – like the Sliter family, Flathead Land Trust, and both of your organizations – **to fight for open space and access in the Flathead. I can’t** express enough how vital wins like this are for our community, wildlife, and economy.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my thoughts, and for all of the work you do to make our State the last best place. I **hope you’ll** help our community by being a champion for Somers Beach.

Best,

*Emily Harkness*

Emily Harkness  
1675 2<sup>nd</sup> Street E.  
Whitefish, MT 59937  
406-529-4915



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Saving

1 message

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**hatton.cheryl@gmail.com** <hatton.cheryl@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 1, 2020 at 1:56 PM

I am very encouraged to think Somers beach would become a public park! I remember spending lots of days on the beach over 50 years ago. I would love to share it with my grandchildren!!! Thank you!!!

Sent from my iPhone

# ***Wayne and Diane Hebert***

P.O. Box 1, Dayton, MT 59914

406-370-4114

Email: [wrhebert@gmail.com](mailto:wrhebert@gmail.com)

April 1, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

RE: **Somers Beach Project**

Dear Martha and Angie,

I support creating a new public access site on the Sliter property along the north shore of Flathead Lake near Somers. This new site would provide much needed public recreational access in this area.

The new public access and state park site would provide 55 acres of land to recreate on year-round, along 0.4 miles of Flathead Lake shoreline. Opportunities like that being proposed on the Sliter property are rare on Flathead Lake, as much of its shoreline has been divided into small lots and developed. Although Flathead Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the western U.S., there are only 13 public access sites along its 185 miles of shoreline, servicing a population of over 100,000 and many tourists.

The existing Somers Fishing Access Site, on the west side of town, is popular and very overcrowded, especially in the summer months with a growing number of users launching boats, swimming, and enjoying the lake. This access site is only two acres in size, with a narrow, short strip (50-75 feet wide and 250 feet long) along a busy highway, and next to a crowded boat ramp used as a swimming area. The site is typically filled to capacity, with boat trailers parked along US Highway 93 as overflow. All this summer activity at this site presents significant safety hazards.

The space available at the current Somers site does not just meet the public demand for desired public use. In addition, year-round access to the north shore is limited, as much of it is within the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area, which is closed to public use between March and July each year to protect migrating and nesting birds. The proposed recreation area and public access to Flathead Lake will be open year-round to the public, and would include desired amenities focused on the community.

I am excited at the prospect of this new, much needed and desired public access on the north shore of Flathead Lake. This project has amazing potential to increase outdoor recreation opportunities on a beautiful jewel in the Flathead Valley for future generations to come. I hope Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board can help facilitate this incredible project.

Sincerely,



Wayne and Diane Hebert



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers Beach Park Proposal**

1 message

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**Jim & Linda Heim** <j.l.heim@centurytel.net>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Angie Grove & Martha William:

I would like to add my support for the possibility of turning the current Somers Beach owned by the Sliters into a county park. I grew up on a farm near Somers and spent many summers throughout the 1950's swimming and picnicking with friends and family on this wonderful beach area. To have it managed for the general public would be a blessing.

The Sliter family has been and continues to be a vital support in our local community and are to be commended for their efforts in protecting this area for continued public use.

Linda Jensen Heim



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Attention: Angie Grove

1 message

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**David Heller** <davidheller4747@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 7, 2020 at 10:19 AM

To: "protectsomersbeach@gmail.com" <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

Enabling more public access through the creation of a state park to help protect Somers beach area would be beneficial!!  
David and Jan Heller, Bigfork, MT



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support!**

1 message

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**Kristin Henricksen** <khhenricksen@hotmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sun, Mar 29, 2020 at 1:14 PM

Attention: Angie Grove

Hi Angie,

It's finally happening! I approached public officials several years ago about starting the effort to make the old Sandy Beach (the name given by the early pioneers in the Flathead Valley). My father, born in Kalispell in 1910, started going to the beach as a child with his parents. While living, he recalled that tribal peoples camped there (I've never had any luck finding arrowheads and other artifacts, but have seen collections in the hands of others). Mom and Dad used to take my sisters and me to the beach, via boat, when we were young, tie up to a log, and we could swim in the shallow waters without parental worry that we may drown. While in high school, my friends and I would often skip our last class of the day to enjoy warm Spring days on the beach. Now, at 71 years of age, I still love to walk the beach and show others who may not know its' charm and history.

Please preserve this gem as a state park for the public to enjoy! I thank the Sliter family for being so generous in sharing the beach over the years!

Sincerely,

Kristin Henricksen  
406-871-6899

Note: An April 1 deadline to respond with comments is not sufficient for many who may want to voice their support!



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Comment

1 message

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**CenturyLink Customer** <elhill@centurytel.net>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 4:20 PM

Angie Grove  
Montana State Parks and Recreation Board

I am in favor of the FWP working with the Flathead Land Trust to ensure the Somers Beach State Park proposal moves forward.

There is overcrowding at the current access to the beach around Somers and having this extra access would be a great benefit for the public.

To allow the possibility of losing this property for a park would be unthinkable; prime access like this is difficult to find.

Eloise M Hill  
[467 6th Ave W N](#)  
[Kalispell MT 59901](#)



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Please Make Somers Beach a MT State Park.**

1 message

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**Matt Holloway** <matt@hollowayeducation.com>

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 11:24 AM

To: ParksBoard@mt.gov, martha.williams@mt.gov, ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com, info@flatheadlandtrust.org

Dear Martha Williams, Angie Grove, and Flathead Land Trust,

Good morning, and I hope this finds you and your families safe and healthy during these tough times.

I want to make clear that it is with vehement support that I encourage you to take the necessary steps to make Somers Beach a Montana State Park. The Waterfowl Protection Area already in place at the head of Flathead Lake is a testimony to the necessity of such protection, and the addition of the State Park would make protection for the landscape and animals even more year-round and lasting. Most importantly, this would keep private development from further fragmenting and closing-off our Montana wildlands.

A Montana State Park at Somers Beach would be a win-win for all—the landscape, the animals, and the people would all benefit from the lasting protection of the designation and management.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Thanks very much for your time and attention.

All best,  
Matt Holloway  
Education Consultant, Owner

406.270.7429

[matt@hollowayeducation.com](mailto:matt@hollowayeducation.com)

[www.hollowayeducation.com](http://www.hollowayeducation.com)

**Holloway Educational Resources**

-A College Path For Everyone-



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support Somers Beach / Flathead Lake ANGIE GROVE**1 message

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**Jackie Hostetler** <hostetler138@gmail.com>

Sun, Apr 5, 2020 at 3:22 PM

To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Cc: Bob Hostetler &lt;bob.jackiehostetler@gmail.com&gt;

Robert L Hostetler & Jackie Hostetler SUPPORT the action to take advantage of this opportunity to add a public accessible site to FlatheadLake Shoreline and boat ramp / park. We are residents of Lakeside for 18 years and registered voters and working tax payers.

Thank you

Bob &amp; Jackie Hostetler

Sent from my iPad



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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## In support of the Somers beach project

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**Charlotte Housel** <charlotte.housel@gmail.com>

Sun, Mar 29, 2020 at 8:41 PM

To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Hello,

I'm writing in support of the initiative to turn the Sliter's north shore property into a public park. As a resident of Somers, my family and I enjoy the beach regularly and love to picnic and swim in the warmer months and cross country ski and snowshoe when it's frozen. I'm in favor of increasing public access to the lake, as far too much of the Flathead lake shore is privately owned. Everyone in the Flathead Valley deserves equitable access to the recreational opportunities the lake provides, not just the wealthy and seasonal renters, and I see a north shore state park as an excellent way to ensure that.

Trash and other waste (excrement, bonfire detritus) are currently an issue and I think that garbage bins, posted guidelines for use and pit toilets would go a long way toward encouraging responsible enjoyment. Picnic table and fire rings would be a welcome improvement, as would places to launch non-motorized craft like canoes, kayaks and paddle boards.

As someone who lives on the hill above the beach, I would not be in favor of campsites. The shape of the land acts as a natural megaphone. Those living up the hill can practically hear the conversations of those below, something we don't mind during daylight hours, but I think overnight guests would be really disruptive. I'm also interested in how the proposal will protect the wildfowl protection area from trespass, as this is currently an issue. I'm also interested in parking capacity. Overflow parking along the curving road near where people currently park could be dangerous and disruptive to residents.

Thanks for listening,  
Charlotte Housel  
133 Pavillion Hill Ave, Somers

March 25, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

RE: **Somers Beach Project**

Dear Martha and Angie,

I support creating public access on the North Shore of Flathead Lake. I own a vacation rental in Somers and have owned a home in that community for 14 years. As well, I am a huge supporter of land conservation.

Public access that goes beyond hunting is sorely needed on the North Shore. On the entire lake, there is only very limited public access, and much of that is a great distance from the larger populations of the region.

We all know that people really desire access, and, as a result, many trespass just to enjoy the lake. Being here in Somers, I see that happen, and I am sympathetic to their desire to enjoy the site. Most often, I see families, and it makes me think how important it is that local children grow up with an appreciation and attachment for this stunning natural feature of our Valley. It is every generation's responsibility to preserve and protect that resource, and coming generations need to form the attachment with the lake that will make them good future stewards of it.

At the other end of the spectrum, I want to suggest that this public access honor both the natural resource and the human history of this particular location. As a company town, Somers holds a unique place in the history of the region, one that locals proudly honor. As with any place, much has changed in Somers over the years, but it still has a great deal of unique character. The lovely, though small, local museum is a wonderful repository of memories that hearken back to Somers' milltown past.

As such, I believe a state park adjoining the village could be designed in such a way to honor that history, which is really an extension of the history of Montana and the entire West. I hope future plans will include some sort of interpretative signage, or even structure to honor that history and encourage the community toward further historic preservation.

On a particularly human note, I have attended Somers Company Town Museum gatherings and listened to the "oldtimers" reminisce about their own childhood escapades on the lake. They have wonderful stories to tell, and it makes me feel all the more keenly in giving future generations the chance to have their own stories to tell.

This park could be quite a jewel in the state system, and I look forward to every effort that moves it in that direction.

Sincerely,

Susan How  
P.O Box 404  
Somers, MT 59932

Laura Katzman

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**From:** Jules Howard <julieartie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 10:31 AM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** North shore Flathead Lk

Please give all of us here in the Valley the additional area the Sliter family is willing to donate for a recreational spot! We love the North Shore especially in the fall.

Thank you,  
Julie Howard  
Community Ln.  
Bigfork Mt

Sent from my iPhone



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**SOMERS BEACH STATE PARK**

1 message

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**Eric Hurst** <erichurst2002@yahoo.com>

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 4:54 PM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

Dear Angie Grove, and Martha Williams

I am writing about the proposed Somers Beach State Park. My wife and I live in Somers. We enthusiastically support the idea of a state park for Somers Beach. The access by the public to Flathead Lakefront is far to limited. This especially true for the north shore. The current Somers boat launch area is too small for access in the summer months. It is overcrowded with cars and boat trailers and is actually dangerous for pedestrians on Hwy 93. A new park is an excellent idea and it should move forward.

Thank you  
Eric and Jan Hurst  
Somers residents

March 31, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

RE: **Somers Beach Project**

Dear Ms. Williams and Ms. Grove,

The north shore of Flathead Lake is such a wonderful place to visit, especially in the winter months, and my family has been using it for many years. What an wonderful opportunity this is to preserve access there for the future. If the boat launch access was left at the existing fishing access site, this new area would offer a quieter place to enjoy the lake, and allow the birds to keep their peaceful habitat.

I support creating a new public access site on the Sliter property along the north shore of Flathead Lake near Somers. This new site would provide much needed public recreational access in this area.

The existing Somers Fishing Access Site, on the west side of town, is popular and very overcrowded, especially in the summer months with a growing number of users launching boats, swimming, and enjoying the lake. This access site is only two acres in size, with a narrow, short strip (50-75 feet wide and 250 feet long) along a busy highway, and next to a crowded boat ramp used as a swimming area. The site is typically filled to capacity, with boat trailers parked along US Highway 93 as overflow. All this summer activity at this site presents significant safety hazards.

The space available at the current Somers site does not just meet the public demand for desired public use. In addition, year-round access to the north shore is limited, as much of it is within the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area, which is closed to public use between March and July each year to protect migrating and nesting birds. The proposed recreation area and public access to Flathead Lake will be open year-round to the public, and would include desired amenities focused on the community.

I am excited at the prospect of this new, much needed and desired public access on the north shore of Flathead Lake. This project has amazing potential to increase outdoor recreation opportunities on a beautiful jewel in the Flathead Valley for future generations to come. I hope Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board can help facilitate this incredible project.

Sincerely,

Jane H. Jacobson  
Kalispell Resident



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers Beach Park**

1 message

**Rebecca Johnson** <beccadawn25@yahoo.com>

Sun, Apr 5, 2020 at 7:35 PM

Reply-To: "beccadawn25@yahoo.com" &lt;beccadawn25@yahoo.com&gt;

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

To whom it may concern,

My family and I would like to express our full support and delight of the Somers beach area being a state park. My two daughters are now teenagers but we have enjoyed going to the beach every year since they were small to celebrate their spring birthdays. We would love to see Somers beach become a popular destination for locals, but with the added care and maintenance other state parks receive.

Thank you,  
Becca and Luke Johnson & family

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Somers Beach

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janettej@montanasky.us <janettej@montanasky.us>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sat, Mar 21, 2020 at 9:28 PM

Hello...

I am sending this email in SUPPORT of the efforts to have year round public access to one of the most beautiful spots on Flathead Lake. Please , please let this access be granted. The lake is such a treasure but so INaccessible to most of us. This spot is a great spot for families, couples, young people and older people alike. Plenty of room to spread out and enjoy the beauty of the area we live in. We NEED more areas where we can gather in the Flathead Valley!

Thank you!!

Janette and Don Johnston



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Public beach at Somers

1 message

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**Patricia Johnson** <patricia.johnson72@gmail.com>

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 12:21 PM

To: "protectsomersbeach@gmail.com" <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

Angie Grove and Martha Williams,

I am all for additional public access points on Flathead Lake, and this seems like a perfect opportunity to make that happen! Flathead Lake is a gem of the valley community, and more Flathead Valley and Montana residents overall would benefit from this additional access. Full support!

Thank you,

Patricia Johnson and family  
Whitefish, MT



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Kim re beach**

1 message

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**kimjones@montanasky.net** <kimjones@montanasky.net>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 4:12 PM

Dear Angie,

Just a short time ago, driving by the Somers beach access I said to my husband "it would be so nice if the county would make this a beach for the people".

Saturday, I open the Daily Interlake to the story on just the idea.

A resounding YES from me.

Other than the nice public lake access in Polson, there really aren't any access points that would allow for a fair number of people to enjoy our wonderful Flathead Lake.

In our youth, we swam and played at our grandparents' property. Sadly, the home was eventually sold. The few access points we have only allow for a few vehicles.

To have such an access to the lake as is available at Somers would be very welcome.

Thank you for considering allowing this opportunity to become a public beach. Would love to see children and future grands enjoy the beautiful outdoors on the lake.

Sincerely,

Kim Jones

108 Saddle Loop

Bigfork

PS – Wayfarer park access is NOT easy for most and there is minimal parking. It is so steep walking in and out is difficult for most.



Sommers Beach.JPG  
1019K

Laura Katzman

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**From:** Constanza von der Pahlen <constanza@flatheadlakers.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 4:08 PM  
**To:** Katzman, Laura  
**Subject:** FW: Somer's Beach Project

FYI - LOS.

-----Original Message-----

From: Debra Kampsula  
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 4:04 PM  
To: constanza@flatheadlakers.org  
Subject: Somer's Beach Project

Martha Williams  
Montana Department of Fish and wildlife and parks

Angie Grove  
Montana state park and recreational

Reference: Somers Beach project

Dear Martha and Angie,

I am writing to express to you the importance of creating a public space on the north shore of Flathead Lake.

I have recently learned of the proposed park with access in Somers. I think this is a great idea for our community and visitors that come to Montana.

The current access is too small for the many fishermen, boaters and families picnicking and swimming along the shore. During the summer months there are too many cars parked along the highway creating a hazard for those traveling and those recreating.

The Somer's Beach project could be used for non-motorized boats, Birdwatching, picnicking, strolling along the shore and sightseeing. Plus this access could be available year-round.

I hope you will support this project and the Sliter's family that has provided property to make this possible.

Thank you for your service to our community and state.

Sincerely,  
Deb Kampsula

Sent from my iPhone



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Angie Grove

1 message

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**Tyla Kauffman** <tylaclarky@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 2:59 PM

Great idea to open the Sliters beach and make it a Montana state park!

48 Prairie Falcon Court  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
March 17, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Dear Martha and Angie,

We are writing in support of an opportunity for new public recreation access on Flathead Lake.

We have an exciting opportunity to provide much needed new public recreation access and to conserve scenic open space, bird habitat and important historical heritage on Flathead Lake. The Sliters Flathead Lake Public Access Project seeks to conserve a highly developable 106 acre property on Flathead Lake near Somers. Properties like the Sliters are rare along Flathead Lake. With this project, we have a real opportunity to conserve this vital piece of land and preserve our Montana outdoor heritage on what is considered the Crown of the Continent ecosystem.

Flathead Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River - over 200 square miles in size. Public access to enjoy the Lake is limited. Thirteen public access sites along Flathead Lake's 185 miles of shoreline serve a population of over 100,000 and many times this number of tourists. Most of these sites are small in capacity. The existing Somers Fishing Access Site on Highway 93 west of Somers is popular but very overcrowded, especially in the summer months with a growing number of users launching boats, swimming, and enjoying the lake. This existing site is only two acres in size with a narrow short strip (50-75 feet wide and 250 feet long) along a busy highway, next to a crowded boat ramp that is used as a swimming area. The site is typically filled to capacity with boat trailers parked along US Highway 93 as overflow which presents safety hazards. The space available at the current Somers site just does not meet the public demand for desired public use.

This proposed new access site and would spread out the use by allowing a launch site for non-motorized boats and provide a much safer swimming area away from the highway and boat and car traffic congestion. It would also protect 0.4 miles of the shoreline of Flathead Lake, 60 acres of wetland, 69 acres of 100-year floodplain, and relatively natural habitat for fish and wildlife.

The Sliter family has owned this land since 1930 and knows the value of its use by the public. Historically, people enjoyed beautiful, immense sandy beaches as a recreation site near Somers. After the construction of Seli's Ksanka Qlispe' Dam (formerly Kerr Dam) which raised the lake levels by about ten feet during summer, use of the area changed. However, it is still a popular place to go on a sunny spring day when lake levels are low. When lake levels come up during summer, the area's shallow waters extend far out from

shore providing a safe area for families to swim and recreate. The Sliters have decided to sell their family land in order for it to be developed into a recreation area with public access to Flathead Lake. The family generously wants to extend the legacy of having the Somers area be a jewel for public recreation on Flathead Lake.

Much of the north shore is also public land as part of the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area. However, the Waterfowl Production Area is closed to human use between March and July each year to protect migrating and nesting birds. The recreation area and public access to Flathead Lake that will result from this project would be open year-round to the public and would include desired amenities focused on people.

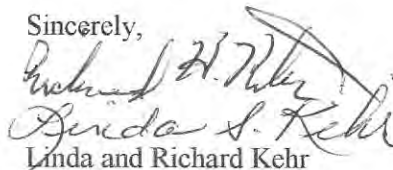
This project would also allow portions of an adjacent property owned by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) that was formerly contaminated, to potentially become part of the public accessible park. The project site is adjacent to a former BNSF railroad tie treating facility. Cleanup of the former BNSF railroad tie treating facility was implemented under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA has declared a recreation site as an appropriate and good future use of this project site.

Flathead Land Trust (FLT) is a community-based conservation organization that has been working with the Sliter family and other partners for several years in order to see a conservation outcome for the property that also includes public access. With this project, FLT proposes to partner with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to purchase the property for public recreation and conservation purposes. FLT is also committed to partner with the Sliter family to help coordinate protection of the existing shoreline from future erosion, and partners such as BNSF to develop public recreation infrastructure such as roads, trails, parking areas, and bathrooms as necessary for future public use.

The project is also part of a larger vision for conserving the north shore of Flathead Lake and the Flathead River by the collaborative Flathead River to Lake Initiative. The Initiative involves private landowners, land trusts, conservation organizations, and county, tribal and federal agencies working together to conserve critical lands along the Flathead River and north shore of Flathead Lake. These critical lands include wetlands, floodplains, riparian areas, and associated uplands that help sustain our excellent water quality, important fish and wildlife habitat, rich farm soils, beautiful scenery, and outstanding recreation opportunities. The north shore of Flathead Lake provides 7 miles of high quality shoreline, wetlands, and adjoining uplands that support 229 bird species. This project would enhance about 2,400 acres of adjacent land protected by the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Wildlife Management Area, and private land in conservation easements on the north shore of Flathead Lake.

Thank you for considering this valuable opportunity to provide public access to Flathead Lake in the Somers area.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Linda and Richard Kehr in cursive script.

Linda and Richard Kehr

(406) 885-1408

[rkehr4642@gmail.com](mailto:rkehr4642@gmail.com)

Attachments: Sliter Property Vicinity Map, Sliter Property Map



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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## Letter of Support

**Kenney, Colin** <ckenney@mtech.edu>

Tue, Mar 24, 2020 at 3:36 PM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

Hi,

I've attached my letter of support.

I really appreciate what you guys are trying to do, and I hope it gets approved.

My family and I really enjoyed our time there last weekend.

Let me know if there is anything else I can do.

Thanks

Colin Kenney

Montana Tech

Mechanical Engineering

Montana Tech Outdoors President

**Protect Somers Beach.docx**

13K

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this in support of converting Somers Beach into a year-round Montana State Park. While I have live my entire life in the Flathead Lake area, this last weekend was my first time at Somers Beach, and it was amazing. It was amazing to see the amount of people enjoying Flathead Lake in non-summer months, with all of their family members and dogs. A real community has been built and raised around this location and it deserves to be preserved for all generations.

Flathead Lake has few places with public access compared to how big our lake is, and I believe that Somers Beach State Park would be a great addition for all who want to enjoy our beautiful lake, especially those who live and fly into Kalispell and surrounding areas. I believe the addition of the State Park would also boost the economy of Somers and the surrounding areas as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Colin Kenney



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Angie Grove**

1 message

**Cheryl Klein** <cheboklein@att.net>

Sun, Mar 29, 2020 at 12:29 PM

Reply-To: Cheryl Klein &lt;cheboklein@att.net&gt;

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

Being Somers area residents for years, we have frequently utilized the current limited beach area for swimming and kayaking. It is a great opportunity for the outdoors but utilized far beyond its capacity with constant danger of serious accident due to proximity to Hwy. 93. It also offers only summer activity and is of no use the rest of the year and with no future for further development.

The proposed N Shore beach project is an excellent step toward fulfilling needed outdoor activities for families. It is a safe location with inspirational views and the potential for further development in years to come. With proper restrictions to control use, such as parking and sanitation/trash facilities, It would be a tremendous boost to our outdoor activities list not only during the summer months but throughout the year.. It would also boost the economy of Somers.

Bob & Cheryl Klein  
376 School Addition Road  
Somers



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers Beach**

1 message

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**Danielle Knaff** <danielleknaff2@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 10:23 AM

Dear Angie Grove with Montana State Parks,

I am a mother with four small children and I absolutely love to enjoy the sandy beach. I don't make it there very often due to having to push a stroller and carry chairs, blankets, towels, etc through the long field. Another problem I run into with children is them having to go to the bathroom. We have to pack everything up and leave when they have to since there is nowhere for them to go. It's a lot of work to pack and unpack the car to go back to the beach so we usually aren't there very long which is very unfortunate.

The kids thoroughly enjoy the beach and talk about it often. It is like visiting the ocean with the sand, but a lot safer with super shallow water that warms up quicker than any other area of the lake.

If it was made into a state park with an outhouse and maybe even closer parking it would make the world of a difference to this family! Thank you for hearing this community.

Sincerely,

Danielle Knaff

April 8, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

**RE: Somers Beach Project**

Dear Martha and Angie,

We own property in Somers which abuts the Waterfowl Preserve in Somers and we are very much in support of creating a new public access site on the Sliter property on the north shore of Flathead Lake. The new public access site would provide much needed public recreational access on the north shore of Flathead Lake near Somers.

The new proposed public access site would provide 55 acres of land to recreate on year-round along 0.4 miles of shoreline of Flathead Lake. New public access opportunities like that being proposed on the Sliter property are rare on Flathead Lake as much of its shoreline has been divided into small lots and developed. Although Flathead Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the western U.S. there are currently only 13 public access sites along its 185 miles of shoreline servicing a population of over 100,000 in addition to many tourists. The existing Somers Fishing Access Site on the west side of town is popular but very overcrowded, especially in the summer months with a growing number of users launching boats, swimming, and enjoying the lake. This existing access site is only two acres in size and is typically filled to capacity with boat trailers parked along U.S. Highway 93 as overflow which presents safety hazards. The space available at the current Somers site just does not meet the public demand for desired public use. In addition, there is limited year-round access to the north shore as much of it is the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area; which is closed to human use between March and July each year to protect migrating and nesting birds. The recreation area and public access to Flathead Lake that will result from this project would be open year-round to the public and would include desired amenities focused on people.

We are excited at the prospect of this new much needed and desired public access on the north shore of Flathead Lake. This project has amazing potential to increase outdoor recreation opportunities on a beautiful jewel in the Flathead Valley for future generations to come. We very

much hope Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board can help facilitate this incredible project.

Sincerely,

Linda Kelley Kurfess and David L. Kurfess

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

### **Somers Beach Project – Public Access Support**

Dear Martha and Angie,

We are supportive of creating a new public access site on the Sliter property on the north shore of Flathead Lake. The new public access site would provide much needed public recreational access, would conserve bird habitat, and buffer the adjacent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area. This project will positively impact the local community while conserving the north shore of Flathead lake.

The project is part of a larger vision for conserving the north shore of Flathead Lake and its critical wetlands and associated uplands that help sustain our excellent water quality, important bird habitat, rich farm soils, beautiful scenery, and outstanding recreational opportunities. The north shore of Flathead Lake provides 7 miles of high quality shoreline, wetlands, and adjoining uplands that support 229 bird species. This project would enhance about 2,400 acres of adjacent land protected by the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Wildlife Management Area, and private land in conservation easements on the north shore of Flathead Lake. We helped conserve some of our land on the north shore and would love to see the Sliter land added to this conservation network.

I am excited at the prospect of conserving more of the north shore of Flathead Lake and expanding the public recreation options for the local community. This project has amazing potential to protect a beautiful jewel in the Flathead Valley for future generations to come. We hope Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board can help facilitate this incredible project.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Kurfess



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**MT State Parks and Recreation Board**

1 message

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**Dennis LaBonty** <lg36738@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 6:57 AM

Ms. Angie Grove

First I would like to thank the Sliter family and the Flathead Lake Trust for working together to develop a solution for the property on north Flathead Lake. As a Polson resident, I strongly support the development of Sommers beach and Lake access and family recreation. If accomplished correctly it benefits all Lake stakeholders and is forward thinking and benefits generations to come. My mother used to take my brother, sister, and I to that beach in the 1950's. I have many pleasant memories of splashing in Flathead Lake waters and playing in the sand. Please continue to help others create their own memories of this majestic Flathead Lake and keep as much of it open to the public as possible. There is enough for everyone! This is good stewardship for generations to come.

--

Dennis LaBonty  
[lg36738@gmail.com](mailto:lg36738@gmail.com)



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

---

**MT State Parks and Recreation Board**

---

**Dennis LaBonty** <lg36738@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 7:48 AM

To: andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

Andrea

My mother was raised in Jordan, MT and moved with three bothers to Rollins in 1935 as they got ready to flood Fort Peck reservoir. My grandfather, George Frazier, bought the the place by White's Meats that has the "big red barn." They sold it in 1963 and moved to Crescent Bay. My mother served as a Navy Wave in WWII. When she came home we lived in Kalispell on Somers Stage Road across from today's Rosaurers Supermarket on the south end of Kalispell. My parents were divorced in the mid 50s and my mother raised my brother, sister, and me. We still went to my grandparents place, but also spent many weekends at the Somer's Beach. It was a great time in my life. I can remember the warm shallow water and the wonderful sandy beach compared to the rocky gravely beaches at my grandparents. My brother and I used to make wooden boats and attempt to float them in the waves. This is great comfort knowing that other generations of young and old people can have access to a great Flathead Lake beach area. And boaters may have a accessible, safe, and modern ramp area. Maybe there will be a few picnic tables as well. I remember shivering in a towel as Flathead Lake turns me blue and chatters my teeth while trying to eat a tuna fish sandwich.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Dennis LaBonty

[lg36738@gmail.com](mailto:lg36738@gmail.com)

**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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**Somers Beach**

1 message

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**Sharon/Steve Lamar** <lamar@blackfoot.net>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 8:33 AM

I am wholeheartedly in favor of the Somers Beach State Park proposal. Public access needs to be kept open to the locals, not just the rich landowners.

Thank you.

Sharon Lamar  
PO Box 1077  
Swan Valley, MT 59826



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

---

**Support of Sommers sandy beach state park**

2 messages

**sarah lamson** <sarahjane93@hotmail.com>

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 10:29 AM

To: "protectsomersbeach@gmail.com" &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

Martha Williams, FWP and Angie Grove, State Parks,

I am writing in support of making the sandy beach at Sommers, MT a state park. The area is beautiful and dear to many locals, but without regulation it is in danger. I have seen the number of people enjoying a spring day there rise extraordinarily in the last 15 years, with more than 50 cars parked there on a recent day. The area borders a wildlife wetland management area which could be in danger without some perimeters being set in place. It is a special place for Montana families to spend spring days on the lake in the soft sand with beautiful views. Setting my children on the beach to run unencumbered and enjoy the freedom in nature that this area provides after a long winter is one of my greatest joys of parenthood. It is a very unique area. It is important to make this an area that future generations can enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Lamson  
484 5th Avenue West North  
Kalispell, MT 59901

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**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 11:45 AM

To: sarah lamson &lt;sarahjane93@hotmail.com&gt;

Thank your thoughtful letter, Sarah. Your comments are exactly on point! If you are interested in more information or forwarding information on to others, I've attached some documents prepared by Flathead Land Trust, one of our collaborating organizations. The documents include a sample letter of support, additional bullets about the proposed access / park as well as a few maps outlining the portions of our family property that are under consideration for this new state park,

All best,  
Andrea Sliter Goudge  
[Quoted text hidden]

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**6 attachments**

**New Potential North Shore Public Access.jpg**  
637K

**People Enjoying Somers Beach in Spring.JPG**  
967K



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Love Somers Beach, BUT?**

1 message

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**virgil larsen** <montanaviking@yahoo.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sun, Apr 5, 2020 at 9:31 AM

We are 68 yrs old and can do pretty much what we want except walk half a mile to the water at Somers Beach.

We met with our daughter and 6 kids at Somers in late March. It was windy & cool but beautiful sun shine. We were a bit disappointed to see where we had to park and the water so far away we could hardly see it. We politely decided not to do the walk since the water & wind were still cold.

I suggest a much needed upgrade road to a nice parking lot as close to the water/beach as possible. You could have a secured donation box somewhere as you come in.

The Somers Beach reminds me of the ocean beach. It could be much more enjoyed. The long shallow depth makes it safe and warm for all ages to enjoy.

By the way, have you been to the north shore swimming east of the Flathead river over by the Bigfork island. Amazing swimming. We go there and drop anchor and swim along with 40-60 other boats. What a great time. No beach but warm shallow water.

Hope this can happen.  
Thank you Sliter family.  
Virgil & Denise Larson  
Kalispell



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Public access

1 message

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**Patrice Latourelle** <patrice@aboutmontana.net>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Fri, Mar 27, 2020 at 9:24 AM

Please do not allow this to become private. It is a very special place to a lot of people in the valley  
Pat LaTourelle

Sent from my iPhone

Laura Katzman

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**From:** Percy Laube <pvlaube@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 6:21 PM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** New state park.

I think it's a great idea.

Hopefully it would take some traffic off US 93 and Boon Rd. where the boat launch is, and the current beach. During the summer season this area is dangerously overcrowded by boat launch vehicles and trailers to the point of no access to the small adjoining beach.

A boat launch area on the north end of the lake would be very desirable.

Percy Laube  
Somers



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support Somers Beach**1 message

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**Dale and Lois** <laumans@montanasky.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 31, 2020 at 6:51 PM

Angie Grove and Martha Williams,

I would like to add support for the possibility of turning the current Somers Beach owned by the Sliter's into a State Park.

My late husband Dale Lauman was raised in Somers from the time he was one (1) year old. He often reminisced about the good times he and the many kids had playing at Somers Beach.

Often parents and friends would join in the fun by providing a picnic lunch to share on this beautiful beach.

The Somers-Lakeside people are thirsty for a place to take friends, family and kids to a safe place to enjoy the water recreation away from the boats.

The Sliter family has been and continues to be a real support to our communities and are to be commended for that. I appreciate their effort in attempting to protect this area for public use.

Lois Lauman

[45 Mission View Drive](#)

[Lakeside, MT 59922](#)

[laumans@montanasky.com](mailto:laumans@montanasky.com)

Phone: 406-857-3512

Cell: 406-253-2841



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## YES

1 message

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**Brian Launius** <nvirotech1@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 7:58 PM

ALL IN FAVOR! It should be protected!!!!

**Brian S. Launius**



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers Beach**

1 message

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**John Leary** <irishpolo@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Wed, Mar 25, 2020 at 5:24 PM

Hello,

I am writing in support of creating a state park at the area now known as Somers Beach. My wife, friends, and I frequent the waterfowl production area adjacent to the beach and enjoy the area immensely. We are deeply appreciative of this area for all the recreational activities it affords and it's so close to where we live in Kalispell. It is, however, closed for a third of the year. The creation of a state park makes sense as it would give the public year round access and shield additional shoreline from development.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

John and Liz Leary



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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## Please protect Somers beach

2 messages

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**Liz Leary** <liz@biasbrewing.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Fri, Mar 27, 2020 at 9:40 AM

Dear Angie Grove, Chair of Montana State Parks  
and  
Dear Martha Williams, Director, Montana Fish Wildlife and Park,

Hello, my name is Liz Leary, a Flathead local who lives, works and plays in our spectacular valley. I'm writing a letter of support in regards to making the area known as "Somer's Beach" into a state park. This area has long been the community's playground but those who recreate and use this beautiful space recognize that the more popular it becomes, the more pressing it is to have an agency who can properly manage the high traffic it receives in order to preserve and protect both the ecology and wildlife that reside there. As someone who cares deeply about access to public lands but also preserving wild spaces, it seems that a state park would be a beautiful marriage to protect this area.

Please consider another local citizens' plea to keep this space public and accessible. I've spent many rejuvenating afternoons on that beach and would love to see it properly maintained and managed by an organization so human impact is minimal. I've attached some photos of some of the best days I've spent there. Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly,  
Liz

--  
*Liz Leary*  
*Taproom Manager*  
*Bias Brewing*  
*409 1st Ave E*  
*Kalispell, MT 59901*  
*406-730-3020*

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### 4 attachments



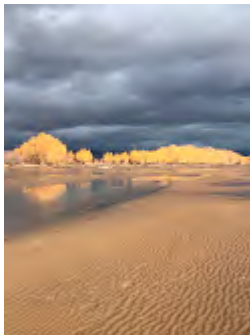
**IMG\_6814.jpg**  
3239K



IMG\_7184.jpg  
839K



IMG\_7182.jpg  
1628K



IMG\_6817.jpg  
1616K

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**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>  
To: Liz Leary <liz@biasbrewing.com>

Fri, Mar 27, 2020 at 10:26 AM

Thank you, Liz! Great photos! Appreciate you guys!  
Andrea  
[Quoted text hidden]



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**SOMERS BEACH**

1 message

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**Patty Lessard** <patty@sliters.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Thu, Apr 2, 2020 at 8:39 AM

Dear Martha and Angie,

I am supportive of creating a new public access site on the Sliter property on the north shore of Flathead Lake. The new public access site would provide much needed public recreational access on the north shore of Flathead Lake near Somers.

The new public access site would provide 55 acres of land to recreate on year-round along 0.4 miles of shoreline of Flathead Lake. New public access opportunities like that being proposed on the Sliter property are rare on Flathead Lake as much of its shoreline has been divided into small lots and developed. Although Flathead Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the western U.S. there are currently only 13 public access sites along its 185 miles of shoreline servicing a population of over 100,000 in addition to many tourists. The existing Somers Fishing Access Site on the west side of town is popular but very overcrowded, especially in the summer months with a growing number of users launching boats, swimming, and enjoying the lake. This existing access site is only two acres in size with a narrow short strip (50-75 feet wide and 250 feet long) along a busy highway and next to a crowded boat ramp used as a swimming area. The site is typically filled to capacity with boat trailers parked along U.S. Highway 93 as overflow which presents safety hazards. The space available at the current Somers site just does not meet the public demand for desired public use. In addition, there is limited year-round access to the north shore as much of it is the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area; which is closed to human use between March and July each year to protect migrating and nesting birds. The recreation area and public access to Flathead Lake that will result from this project would be open year-round to the public and would include desired amenities focused on people.

I am excited at the prospect of this new much needed and desired public access on the north shore of Flathead Lake. This project has amazing potential to increase outdoor recreation opportunities on a beautiful jewel in the Flathead Valley for future generations to come. I hope Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board can help facilitate this incredible project.

Sincerely,

PATTY LESSARD

Patty Lessard  
Paint Specialist

[patty@sliters.com](mailto:patty@sliters.com)

Phone (406) 857-3306  
Fax (406) 857-3369

[55 Somers Rd. - Somers, Montana. 59932](#)

4/2/2020

Gmail - SOMERS BEACH

P.O. Box 130 - Somers, Montana 59932

[sliters.com](http://sliters.com)



March 25, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

RE: **Somers Beach Project**

Dear Martha and Angie,

We support creating a new public access site on the Sliter property along the north shore of Flathead Lake near Somers. This new site would provide much needed public recreational access in this area.

The new public access and state park site would provide 55 acres of land to recreate on year-round, along 0.4 miles of Flathead Lake shoreline. Opportunities like that being proposed on the Sliter property are rare on Flathead Lake, as much of its shoreline has been divided into small lots and developed. Although Flathead Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the western U.S., there are only 13 public access sites along its 185 miles of shoreline, servicing a population of over 100,000 and many tourists.

The existing Somers Fishing Access Site, on the west side of town, is popular and very overcrowded, especially in the summer months with a growing number of users launching boats, swimming, and enjoying the lake. This access site is only two acres in size, with a narrow, short strip (50-75 feet wide and 250 feet long) along a busy highway, and next to a crowded boat ramp used as a swimming area. The site is typically filled to capacity, with boat trailers parked along US Highway 93 as overflow. All this summer activity at this site presents significant safety hazards.

The space available at the current Somers site does not just meet the public demand for desired public use. In addition, year-round access to the north shore is limited, as much of it is within the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area, which is closed to public use between March and July each year to protect migrating and nesting birds. The proposed recreation area and public access to Flathead Lake will be open year-round to the public, and would include desired amenities focused on the community.

We are excited at the prospect of this new, much needed and desired public access on the north shore of Flathead Lake. This project has amazing potential to increase outdoor recreation opportunities on a beautiful jewel in the Flathead Valley for future generations to come. I hope Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board can help facilitate this incredible project.

Sincerely,

  
Cindy & Jeff Lewis  
Lakeside, Montana



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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## We LOVE Somers Beach!

**Annie P Lillard** <annielillard@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 24, 2020 at 8:08 PM

To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Visiting Somers Beach in the spring has become a wonderful tradition for our family. I grew up in Kalispell and left the valley for ten years before returning with my own family in 2012. Since then, we have made a yearly trip to the beach to enjoy the open space, the soft sand, the cool water and the gorgeous view.

We would prefer not to trespass to get to the beach. It would be wonderful to see this space supported as a state park and managed appropriately. Montanans love our outdoor space and are respectful of nature. I believe that having the area sanctioned as a park will encourage people to be even more respectful of the space.

I've attached pictures of our family from 2012-2019 on the beach. We LOVE this space!

Thank you,  
Annie Lillard

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### 7 attachments



**IMG\_1547.JPG**  
878K



**IMG\_2741.JPG**  
1264K



**IMG\_3685.JPG**  
1259K

**IMG\_5558.JPG**  
454K



**IMG\_6935 cropped.jpg**  
393K



**IMG\_8039.JPG**  
382K



**IMG\_9401 - Copy.JPG**  
212K



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Angie Grove**

1 message

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**Lana Ruon** <lanaruon@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 11:51 AM

Hello!

I saw the article in the paper and was so excited at the possibility of this! I have been going to the sandy beach in the spring with my family for many years and now that I have a young son I can't wait to take him there too. Flathead Lake is obviously such a wonderful place to spend time and the areas that do allow public access in the summer time are limited and usually crowded. This would allow more people to enjoy the beauty of the lake throughout the year and as I said before it makes me excited to think it could become a possibility!

Lana Lipka



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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## Somers Beach

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**Jordan Lister** <jlister09@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 24, 2020 at 3:20 PM

Somers/Lakeside Chamber,

I would support developing the Somers Beach area. It could be done in a very positive way for our community.

My wish list:

1. Create a beach that can be enjoyed spring, summer, fall and winter by building a concrete retaining wall along the north shore at least 300' south of the existing waterfowl area/grasslands. The retaining wall would keep Flathead lake from flooding the spring beach area even when the lake is at full pool.
2. Raise the level of the beach to be at the top of the retaining wall so the views are great with low water and full pool levels.
3. Help the public understand the Natural Lake Level was 10' lower than summer levels, which would mean this beach was naturally available before Kerr Dam was built. A concrete barrier wouldn't make this beach unnatural, but bring it closer to its original state. It would allow the public to enjoy the north shore, and alleviate crowded shorelines in the very small available beach areas elsewhere in the Flathead Valley.

~ Jordan



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Protect Somers Beach

1 message

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**Necile Lorang** <necile@charter.net>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 2:30 PM

I support this effort to keep this beach open to the public as a State Park.  
Thank You,  
Necile Lorang  
Whitefish, MT

Sent from my iPad

Laura Katzman

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**From:** kathy lucke <kathylucke@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 10:03 PM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** possible Montana State Park on north shore of Flathead Lake in Somers area

To whom it may concern: I totally support, am in favor of the proposed new state park in the Somers area. My grandmother moved into the Flathead Valley in 1922 and stated to me her grand daughter about 50 years ago that there was not adequate public access being kept on Flathead Lake. The chance to have more at this late date should not go ignored. I have acreage on the river and can boat from above Bigfork all the way to Polson, but those who do not own property along the river or lake are not so fortunate and more public access is greatly needed. I hope this state park will be created. Kathy Lucke

Laura Katzman

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**From:** Jim Lynch <jim.p.lynch5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 5, 2020 5:31 PM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Cc:** jim Lynch  
**Subject:** Sliter Family Somers Beach proposal

I believe this is a very good use for this property and support the request.  
Thank You Sliter Family.  
Jim Lynch  
Bigfork,Mt.

**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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**Somers potential state Park**

1 message

**Rick Mace** <rickmace535@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 7, 2020 at 9:34 AM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

To: Angie Grove and Martha Williams

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed state park on the north shore of Flathead Lake near Somers Montana. As a 35 year resident of the Flathead Valley, I have seen a tremendous increase in the need additional recreational opportunities on Flathead Lake. The existing boat launch and swimming area at Somers is both highly over-crowded during peak summer months. Parking is near impossible, and traffic levels are dangerous to folks using the site.

The proposed state park on the Sliter property is an excellent idea and I fully support the effort by the Flathead Land Trust, the Sliter family, Burlington Northern, and Montana FWP to make this proposed state park a reality.

Thank you,

Rick Mace



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Public Support:**

1 message

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**Machado, Amy** <amachado@bearcubs.santarosa.edu>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sun, Mar 29, 2020 at 11:43 PM

Addressed to both:

*Angie Grove with Montana State Parks**Martha Williams with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks*

This is an email in support of a destination State Park at Flathead Lake and conservation efforts. Being originally from Creston in Many Lakes. At the time now 2020 Clearlake, California I call home. Here, Clear Lake, it is the largest lake in California and the oldest of the United States. Any future preservation is in my best interest, having studied at Santa Rosa Junior College as a multi-faceted scholar in Global Studies and Natural Sciences.

With gratitude and respect, bid adieu

Amy Machado



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers beach / attn.Martha Williams Fwp. and Angie Grove, State parks**2 messages

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**Charlie Maetzold** <charliemaetzold@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sun, Mar 22, 2020 at 2:52 PM

Please support the effort to keep access to Somers Beach open year round. This is another one of the wonderful places in the Flathead that should really remain open to everyone. Thank you, Charlie Maetzold, whitefish Montana. Long time Somers beach fan. We used to bring our kids now we bring our grandkids  
Sent from my iPad

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**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>  
To: Charlie Maetzold <charliemaetzold@gmail.com>

Sun, Mar 22, 2020 at 3:28 PM

Thank you, Charlie! If you'd like to spread the word, here is some more information to share with others. Best, Andrea Sliter Goudge

[Quoted text hidden]

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**4 attachments****New Potential North Shore Public Access.jpg**  
637K**New Potential North Shore Public Access zoomed out.jpg**  
2283K **Letter of Support Example.docx**  
15K **New Potential North Shore Public Access Letter of Support Bullet Points.docx**  
17K

Laura Katzman

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**From:** liz makman <elizabethmakman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 12:00 PM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** North Shore support letter

We enthusiastically support acquiring the land on the North Shore of Flathead Lake and making it a state park. Its a brilliant idea and a once in a lifetime opportunity. Flathead Lake is a jewel that should be accessible to the public. A chance for more permanent public access should not be missed!

Thank you

Elizabeth and Stanley Makman

233 Terrace Rd

Kalispell, MT 59901



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

---

**Letter of Support for "Somers Beach" state park**

1 message

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**Mark Manning** <markamanning@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 31, 2020 at 10:03 PM

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to express our support for the proposed "Somers Beach" state park. It's obvious to me how greatly valued access to Flathead Lake's North shore is at Somers Beach. We regularly see how many people visit the site and find enjoyment there. We live in Somers and have since 2014 and the proximity of Somers to Somers Beach is a big part of what drew us here. We grew up in the Flathead and started visiting the beach in high school. Our parents also grew up in the Flathead and have fond memories of the watermelon socials they had there.

I love that Somers Beach feels wild and is a wild place. It's always full of bird life and I've seen tracks from all kinds of wildlife there. I know I share this love of a wild feeling Somers Beach with the vast majority of people who visit there. It's dark there at night, you have to walk a ways to get to the the beach, and there's no shelter. Like all wild places, it's a place that teaches you be prepared. I would love to see a "Somer Beach" state park design that maintains the feeling of it being a wild place. A design that keeps parking well away from the lake shore and that is gravel and not paved; gravel pathways and low profile bathrooms hidden with landscaping and plantings. In other words, I would love to see a "Somers Beach" state park design that does it's best to preserve its current natural state. I believe nearly everyone that cherishes this unique place currently, if asked, would feel the same.

I know there is concern in the Somers community that a "Somers Beach" state park will bring traffic, noise, light pollution and unsightly development. I too am concerned about these possibilities. In general, Somers is a small community that has seen little change and one that would like things to continue that way. The proposed, "Somers Beach" state park sits right at the edge of the community and has the capacity to impact it greatly if respect is not given. For example, limiting parking spaces and closing the park after dark would be design actions that would be respectful of the neighboring community; limitations that would go hand in hand with maintaining a wild feeling we are seeing less and less of these days in the Flathead valley. Limiting "Somers Beach" state park users would also go a long way to protecting the North Shore Waterfowl Production Area from being trespassed on when the area is closed.

Thank you,  
Mark Manning and Liv Ensign

Laura Katzman

---

**From:** Carol Marino <cjmarino36@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 4:24 PM  
**To:** Laura Katzman  
**Subject:** Re: Possible New Somers Beach Public Access

Dear Angie Grove - Chair, Montana State Parks & Recreation Board; and Martha Williams - Director, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks,

I want to send my support for this new proposed access site to Flathead Lake in Somers.

As a kayaker and member of the Flathead Paddlers, it would be a significant benefit to the public to have this additional access to the lake.

As you are well aware, the existing Somers beach access is overcrowded during the boating season and presents a serious risk along the busy U.S. 93 corridor. There is also limited parking there.

With so few public access points to our beloved Flathead Lake, this new addition would be invaluable and give lake recreationists an option to enjoy the lake's beauty.

Please do what you can to make this happen.

Sincerely,

Carol Marino

Kalispell, MT

Laura Katzman

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**From:** jeaolson@cyberport.net  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 2:48 PM  
**To:** Lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** Somers Beach

Angie Grove, Chair, Montana State Parks and Recreation Board  
Martha Williams, Director, Fish Wildlife and Parks

We'd like to strongly support the acquisition of the Somers Beach property as a future Montana State Park on Flathead Lake. The population of the Flathead Valley is rapidly growing, plus various groups continue to encourage ever larger numbers of tourists coming to the valley. Yet, Flathead Lake has only 13 public access points around its entire circumference, far too few to serve all those residents and tourists on a summer weekend. One has only to drive by the current public access in Somers to realize that more access is needed. The north end location of this proposed access is especially good as it would be a convenient location for summer recreation for many of the area's children. It would also be safer than the current access, as it will not be so close to the highway. Also along the lines of its advantageous location, it is adjacent to a former railroad tie treating facility which has been reclaimed by the EPA and which might offer future expansion opportunities.

Lake shore property is limited, there will never be any more of it, already little is available, having already been divided up into house lots. This is a rare opportunity to obtain Flathead Lake shore for recreational as well as conservation and wildlife purposes. We urge you to do whatever you can to advance this project.

Thank you.

Dan and Jeanne Olson  
160 West Valley Acres  
Kalispell, MT 59901

406 755 3019  
jeaolson@cyberport.net

Laura Katzman

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**From:** Jonathan Goodson <mrgoodson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 1:46 PM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** Somers beach

Dear Flathead Land Trust,

I enthusiastically support the creation of a restricted "Somers Beach" parcel as described in your recent email.

Good luck with the project!

Jonathan Goodson  
300 Landmark Ln  
Bigfork MT 59911



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers Beach Project**

2 messages

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**Ann Lee Maude-Simpson** <maudesimpson@me.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Fri, Mar 27, 2020 at 12:28 PM

March 27, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

**1420 East Sixth Avenue**

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

**RE: Somers Beach Project**

Dear Martha and Angie,

I am supportive of creating a new public access site on the Sliter property on the north shore of Flathead Lake. The new public access site would provide much needed public recreational access on the north shore of Flathead Lake near Somers.

I am excited at the prospect of this new much needed and desired public access on the north shore of Flathead Lake. This project has amazing potential to increase outdoor recreation opportunities on a beautiful jewel in the Flathead Valley for future generations to come. I hope Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board can help facilitate this incredible project.

Sincerely,  
**Ann Lee Maude-Simpson**





andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## North shore state park for Flathead Lake

1 message

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**max&eva** <maxneva@yahoo.com>

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 6:37 PM

To: "protectsomersbeach@gmail.com" <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

Angie Grove and Martha Williams,

Yes, Yes to a Montana State Park on the north shore of Flathead Lake.

Do double the park fee on my auto registration, the one used to pull my camper

but assure me a place to park it by preserving the north shore. More access

to the lake's soothing waters.

Max Maxwell  
Kalispell



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Protect Somers Beach

1 message

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**Shall McHinter** <bluebellbeauty79@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 26, 2020 at 4:35 PM

To: "Protectsomersbeach@gmail.com" <Protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

To Martha Williams, FWP and Angie Grove, State Parks,

My name is Shallon Hinter and I am writing to you in regards to Protecting the Somers Beach area for recreational use. With so much land and beautiful recreational space being lost to private owner sales we cannot afford to lose this glorious sight! I can speak for not only myself but my immediate family as well when I say please help our community by doing everything you can to keep this recreational spot going. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter!

Sincerely,  
Shallon Hinter/Flathead County Resident

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**465 Orchard Ridge Rd**

**Kalispell, MT 59901**

April 1, 2020

To whom it may concern:

I write to express my thoughts about the proposed plan for Somers Beach.

I have lived in the Flathead valley for 30 years and raised my children here. I, and, they have always enjoyed the access to the Waterfowl Production area for occasional walks to watch birds and enjoy the scenery. This is a magnificent piece of land.

I am delighted to learn that The Flathead Land Trust, to which I regularly contribute, is partnering with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and BNSF to purchase this land in order to create a new state park which provides access to Flathead Lake. I support this plan although I would also want to state some caveats. I think that access should not overwhelm this area and suitable facilities for a limited amount of parking and toilets need to be carefully considered. It would be easy to spoil this treasure in our valley with too much access. I would prefer to see many, smaller parks with access to Flathead lake than one very large park at the Somers head of the lake.

Sincerely yours,

Rosemary McKinnon

**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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**Somers beach**

1 message

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**Stephanie McLean** <souellette3@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Tue, Apr 7, 2020 at 7:57 PM

To whom it may concern,

My family and I absolutely love this beach. It is in my opinion the best sand beach in the Flathead. The packed dirt makes it perfect for walks for kids and older adults. It would be such a blessing to the community for us to have legal access to this beautiful beach.

Thanks,

Stephanie McLean

Sent from my iPhone



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Public Comment**

1 message

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**Deborah Meiers** <dmeiers80@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 10:19 AM

I spent my childhood walking on this beach every summer and remember my mother telling stories of the beach parties the people of Kalispell used to enjoy there before the dam was built. It's such a wonderful, safe beach for families with the clean sand and shallow water. I believe this would alleviate some of the overcrowding of the Somers boat launch, which was never meant to be a public "beach". I do hope care is taken in developing the site-my concerns involve the possibility of the public taking the old trail from the beach to the adjoining properties, as well as the possible disruption of the bird refuge.

Thank you,  
Deborah Meiers



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers Beach**

1 message

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**Kathryn Mercord** <kmercord@centurytel.net>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 1:50 PM

ATTENTION: Angie Grove Mt State Parks

Martha Williams Fish Wildlife and Parks

I want to express how important it would be to have more public access to Flathead Lake.

My late husband, Chuck Mercord, was responsible for the public park at Somers Beach. He realized years ago the public had few places to have access

to Flathead Lake. I do know that Somers Beach is far too busy!

It would benefit many and also conserve the area.

Thank you, and I look forward to watching this happen!

Kathryn Mercord  
406-857-3414

**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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**(no subject)**

1 message

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**Ingrid Milbrandt** <ingymil@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 10:32 AM

Hello Angie,

I would like to give my support for the Summers Beach! I think it is such a wonderful idea, it would be nice to have the boundaries bathroom facilities and parking. It is a very special place , but it is difficult to go there with little children and not having bathroom makes it difficult also. The sand is wonderful and it is a place that would be enjoyed by so many. It is such a large area that could be utilized in this very special place that we have in Montana. Please give my unconditional support to this project!



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Slider Family land project

1 message

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**Diane Miller** <dianequeenmiller@yahoo.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sun, Mar 29, 2020 at 2:54 PM

Yes... turn the Sliters land into a park. And a thousand thank you'd to the Sliter Families for doing this.

Sent from my iPhone



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**State Park on Flathead's north shore**

1 message

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**Carol Mitch** <mitch59914@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 12:15 PM

Dear Ms. Grove and Ms. Williams,

I am writing to express my support and enthusiasm for making a state park of the Sliters' property on the north shore of Flathead Lake. This offer is amazingly generous and would provide a much needed increase for the public to access the lake. Thank you so much for your efforts toward making this proposal a reality.

Sincerely,

Carol Mitch

Kalispell, MT



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers Beach**

1 message

**Jim Mohn** <mt.cowboy@yahoo.com>

Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 4:16 PM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

Angie Grove  
Montana State Parks  
and  
Martha Williams  
Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks

RE: Somers Beach

Ladies,

As the Somers Lakeside Chamber, the Slider Family and your agencies consider the potential for the Slider property to become a State Park, I wish to provide my personal experience with the property.

My first home was on Burns Street in Somers. My mother would occasionally take me to "Somers Beach" to play on the fine sandy shore and shallow water. One drawback was the fact that, in the late 1940s, you needed to wash down at the end of the outing due to the sawdust and wood chips that occasionally rounded the point from the lumber mill.

After the mill closed, we moved to Kalispell (for economic reasons) but my mother would still take me, and later my sisters to the beach to picnic, cool off in the lake and play in the sand.

In highschool, my friends and I would party at the beach, cookout in the firepit that used to be there, swim out to the island and back and lounge around in the sun. (I won't talk about the drinking.).

After a stint in the Navy and as a student at FVCC, I used the February condition of the site and the beach as the setting for a "Super 8" film I created in lieu of a term paper for a Contemporary Literature class (for which I got an A).

Now, in the last 12 years since retirement, our family, kids and grand kids have enjoyed visiting this area of the lake on numerous occasions, primarily by boat, to picnic, swim and enjoy the sun. When the lake is down, they have enjoyed the broad beach and done "treasure hunts" collecting fishing lures and random metal objects.

The Slider Family has been so very gracious in preserving this area and allowing the public to enjoy it. It would behoove the State to assume ownership and protection of this natural resource.

I strongly support and all efforts to make this Slider property a State Park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Mohn  
PO Box 908  
Lakeside, MT 59922

406-844-3550

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- ☐
- ☐
- ☐



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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## Somers Beach Proposal

1 message

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**Jennifer Montague** <j.nerison.montague@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 1:45 PM

To whom it may concern:

As a homeowner and taxpayer in Somers, I am writing in support of the proposed state park at the north shore of Flathead Lake. This is a beautiful area, and the ability to recreate here was a large part of the reason I chose to buy a house in Somers. My children enjoy bird watching in the area, and seasonally exercising during low water. We have been so thankful that the Sliter family has allowed access to the area, and as grateful neighbors we have been very respectful in the use of the area, adhering to seasonal closures for bird habitat, and always leaving no trace.

This special piece of land is a treasure, and I hope it is preserved as a natural space and as a recreation area for generations to come. To be clear, I do not support commercial or private development of this land. I would like to see this land in the hands of MT State Parks and Fish, Wildlife and Parks. I trust our officials to make solid judgements regarding the balance between preservation and recreation, and also plan to be involved in any future comment on this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

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**Jenny Montague, MS RDN** | Public Health Nutrition Consultant

[195 Breezy Point Avenue](#) | Somers, MT 59932

406.471.5403 | [j.nerison.montague@gmail.com](mailto:j.nerison.montague@gmail.com)

**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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**Somers Beach proposal**

1 message

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**Robert Montague** <montaguemountaineering@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 1:59 PM

Hello,

I am a home owner in Somers and as a resident I would like to see the Sliters land on the North shore of Flathead Lake be made into a public access point. Access to the lake shore on Flathead Lake is limited. The Somers community has been using the Sliters land as an access point for many years and it has become a part of the town's legacy and heritage. Please keep this space open to the public and free from private development.

Thank you,

Robert Montague  
406 407 2807

Laura Katzman

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**From:** Mike M. <mlmoore23@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 8, 2020 11:52 AM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** Proposed Somers beach state park

We think this is a great idea and a way to preserve such a beautiful area while giving public access. My wife is from Fairfield and we visit Flathead lake once a year. We appreciate the family's efforts in keeping this property beautiful.

Mike & Tinna Moore

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Attn: Angie Grove**

1 message

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**Libby Moothart** <moothartlibby@gmail.com>

Sun, Apr 5, 2020 at 2:13 PM

To: "protectsomersbeach@gmail.com" &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

I am writing in favor of the effort to create a State park or access on the beach at the North end of Flathead Lake. It is a unique area of the lake due to the extensive sandy beach and shallow depths which is perfect for families with young children. It is also ideal access for canoes and kayaks. The access at the Somers Rest area is very congested during the summer which causes risks to swimmers, drivers, and pedestrians. Also access to the beach in the past has often happened through private property and without appropriate parking.

Elisabeth Moothart  
406-212-0466

April 7, 2020

Angie Grove – Chair, Montana State Parks & Recreation Board  
Martha Williams – Director of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Dear Ms. Grove and Ms. Williams,

In these days our attention seems consumed by variations on our major health issue. However it should be noted that the world is still going on and other important things are continuing to happen. One item recently caught my attention – that of the possibility of additional public access to Flathead Lake at the Sliter property near Somers. We all know about the growing population of the Flathead Valley and currently how the Somers Fishing Access Site is overcrowded in the summer and will only become much more difficult. A potential solution to this problem has arisen which addresses this access issue and also preserves extremely important wetlands, bird habitat and the scenic values of Flathead Lake. A public state park, properly designed and managed, at this site would seem to be a win-win solution for all involved. I would highly encourage you to pursue this possibility.

As I'm sure you know, the Flathead Land Trust has worked on this issue in the past together with the Sliter family and has helped prepare the groundwork for this magnificent achievement.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this issue.

Harry Morgan  
6370 Farm to Market Road  
Whitefish, MT 59937

[hcmorgan@gmail.com](mailto:hcmorgan@gmail.com)



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Somers Beach

1 message

**Lance Morgan** <lanceimorgan@gmail.com>

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 8:34 AM

To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com, lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org

Cc: Lance Morgan <lanceimorgan@gmail.com>, sarah taylor <sarahfarringtontaylor@gmail.com>

What a wonderful mission! Thanks to both of you. Attached is my letter to the state agencies



**Somers Beach.docx**

14K

LANCE MORGAN  
160 Conifer Lane  
Bigfork, Montana  
[lanceimorgan@gmail.com](mailto:lanceimorgan@gmail.com)

March 28, 2020

Ms. Martha Williams  
Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1420 East Sixth Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620

Ms. Angie Grove  
Chair, Montana Parks Board  
1420 East Sixth Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620

Re: Somers Beach Project

Dear Ms. Williams and Grove:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the effort to create a public access site on the Sliter property on the North Shore of Flathead Lake.

Providing public access on this site will increase the recreational opportunities available to residents and visitors alike and help preserve the area for generations to come.

This remarkable display of generosity by the Sliter family deserves the thanks of the community and the approval of the government. We hope you will do whatever you can to turn this proposal into reality.

Very truly yours,

Lance Morgan

Cc: Andrea Sliter  
Laura Katzman, Flathead Land Trust



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Support for Sliders Land offer

1 message

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**agmouteer@gmail.com** <agmouteer@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 11:34 AM

To: "protectsomersbeach@gmail.com" <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

Andrea Goudge,

I am fulling in support of the State of Montana accepting the land offer from the Slider Family.

This a very valuable asset for the State to preserve for now and the future.

You have my full endorsement for the proposal.

Another access to Flathead Lake is necessary and this is an excellent location.

I have walked, run, and bird watched along the Northshore and would to see it preserved for future generations.

Grant Mouteer

PO Box 8075

Kalispell, Montana 59904

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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## Support for Somers Beach State Park

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**Scott Murphy** <Scott.A.Murphy@hotmail.com>

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 9:44 AM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

To all those planning the Somers Beach Project.

We live up off Boon Road, so we see the crowds at the Somers boat ramp and the swimming area every day.

The citizens of Flathead valley deserve better access to Flathead Lake.

Planning considerations for opening the north end of the lake should include parking and traffic.

There have been multiple serious injury accidents in the vicinity of the existing ramp & beach.

Moving the beach access will alleviate some of the congestion issues at the ramp, but this is still a very dangerous spot.

I have witnessed many of the accidents here, and many close calls: when travelling south on 93 and slowing to turn right onto Boon Road, drivers headed south behind me will pull out into the center turn lane to pass, not knowing that this is a turn lane only, and there may be a northbound vehicle in the same lane waiting to turn left onto Boon road. Add to that the jockeying and moving of trailers due to limited paring at the ramp itself, it is an extremely dangerous situations for pedestrians trying to use the dismal swim access part of the little exiting park.

Traffic for any new park will need adequate controls, either though Somers town or out to 82. A traffic light might be considered at one or both spots, and a light on 93 may slow traffic enough to allow improved access to 93 from Boon Road.

Parking must be well planned for the present and future. Demand will far exceed the existing use of the swim area if a better site was available.

THANK YOU for getting this park in motion (it is needed) and for considering my input. You may contact me if you have any questions.

A special thanks to the Sliter family for all they do and have done for our valley.

**Scott A. Murphy**

(406) 270-4929



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Marth Williams and Angie Grove

1 message

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**teresa narduzzi** <duzzi2233@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectsomersBeach@gmail.com

Fri, Mar 27, 2020 at 9:07 AM

This is my email address in support of somer beach access.

We should all be able to access the high water marks around the lake.  
Anytime.

Too many homeowners think they own the whole lake and have made it impossible for those who cant afford it  
lakefront property to stick their toes in the water.

This is a magical time at the end of Flathead Lake and we should all be able to enjoy it. Not just the Somer residents who  
believe it belongs to them but still expect the county to clean it up.

--

***Teresa Narduzzi***  
**406 885 0085**

Laura Katzman

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**From:** Samuel Neff <samn@earlham.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 8:12 AM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** I support eveloping a state park at Somers Beach

To: Angie Grove - Chair, Montana State Parks & Recreation Board;  
Martha Williams - Director, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks.

As a member of the Flathead Land Trust I support the development of a state park at Somers Beach.

For the past decade The Flathead Land Trust has been working with the Sliter family and other partners to negotiate a conservation and public access outcome for their beautiful "Somers Beach" property along Flathead Lake's north shore.

Flathead Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River - over 200 square miles in size. However, there are currently only 13 public access sites along Flathead Lake's 185 miles of shoreline servicing a population of over 100,000 in addition to many tourists. The existing Somers Fishing Access Site on the west side of town is popular but very overcrowded, especially in the summer months with a growing number of users launching boats, swimming, and enjoying the lake. The site is typically filled to capacity with boat trailers parked along US highway 93 as overflow which presents safety hazards. The space available at the current Somers site just does not meet the public demand for desired public use.

This proposed new park would spread out the use and provide a much safer swimming area away from the highway and boat and car traffic congestion. It would also protect 0.4 miles of the shoreline of Flathead Lake, 60 acres of wetland, 69 acres of 100-year floodplain, and relatively natural habitat for fish and wildlife.

Much of the north shore is also public land as part of the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area; however, the Waterfowl Production Area is closed to human use between March and July each year to protect migrating and nesting birds. The recreation area and public access to Flathead Lake that would result from this project would be open year-round to the public and would include desired amenities focused on people.

With the growing population in the North Flathead Valley, there is a need for preservation of the lakefront property and the availability of administered recreational space. The designation and development of a new state park at Somers Beach simply makes sense.

Sam Neff  
1045 E 4th  
Whitefish

**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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**Support public beach**

1 message

**Carol Nelson** <carolnelson@carolnelsondesign.com>

Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 9:30 AM

To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

We support the public beach at Somers on the north shore of Flathead lake to be a State park. There is a need for more public access to the lake and that is a perfect location providing both recreational and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Pete, Carol & David Nelson

521 Hughes Bay Road

Lakeside, MT 59922

406-250-7278

Sent from my iPad



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Fwd: Yes please, a state park!

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**Therese A Noullet** <tnoullet11@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 7:16 AM

To: "protectsomersbeach@gmail.com" <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** Yes please, a state park!

**From:** Therese A Noullet <tnoullet11@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020, 8:14 AM

**To:** [protectsomersbeach@email.com](mailto:protectsomersbeach@email.com)

**CC:**

I recently found out that a state park is being considered for the Somers' shore. What a fantastic idea. Let's make it happen!

Sincerely,

Jeff&Therese Noullet



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Supporting the designation as a state park

1 message

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**Tim Obermiller** <tobermiller@me.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com  
Cc: Mary Obermiller <mso@obermillerlaw.com>

Sun, Mar 29, 2020 at 9:19 AM

Dear Ms. Andrea Grove and/or Ms. Martha Williams,

My husband Tim and I are submitting our support for the designation as a state park the somers beach. We are lakeside residents and would love to have access to the beach for recreational purposes. Thank you for leading the charge to get comments for this proposal.

If you need anything further from us, please let us know.

Very Truly,

Mary and Tim Obermiller



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Public comment ATTN: Angie Grove, Montana State Parks, and Martha Williams, Montana Fish Wildlife and Park**

1 message

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**karl oehrtman** <koehrtman@hotmail.com>

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 12:09 PM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" &lt;ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com&gt;

I am very much in favor of having the Sliter property turned into a public park. Public access to Flathead Lake is very much at a premium. I also feel that this site would allow more safety than the very busy and overcrowded site on hwy 93. Thank you, Karl Oehrtman

Karl Oehrtman  
143 Blasdel Lane  
Kalispell, MT  
59901  
406-253-9628



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Martha Williams & Angie Grove. Somers Beach Project

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**Shelby Ann Olivier** <shelbbers@yahoo.com>

Wed, Mar 25, 2020 at 1:59 PM

To: "ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com" <ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com>

To Whom it may concern,

Hi my name is Briella, I am from Kalispell MT and I am eight years old. I love summers beach I love how my feet sink in the sand, I love how non-rocky it is, last I love how warm the water is, and somers beach should be a public park.

Sincerly, Briella Olivier.

Laura Katzman

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**From:** jeaolson@cyberport.net  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 2:48 PM  
**To:** Lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** Somers Beach

Angie Grove, Chair, Montana State Parks and Recreation Board  
Martha Williams, Director, Fish Wildlife and Parks

We'd like to strongly support the acquisition of the Somers Beach property as a future Montana State Park on Flathead Lake. The population of the Flathead Valley is rapidly growing, plus various groups continue to encourage ever larger numbers of tourists coming to the valley. Yet, Flathead Lake has only 13 public access points around its entire circumference, far too few to serve all those residents and tourists on a summer weekend. One has only to drive by the current public access in Somers to realize that more access is needed. The north end location of this proposed access is especially good as it would be a convenient location for summer recreation for many of the area's children. It would also be safer than the current access, as it will not be so close to the highway. Also along the lines of its advantageous location, it is adjacent to a former railroad tie treating facility which has been reclaimed by the EPA and which might offer future expansion opportunities.

Lake shore property is limited, there will never be any more of it, already little is available, having already been divided up into house lots. This is a rare opportunity to obtain Flathead Lake shore for recreational as well as conservation and wildlife purposes. We urge you to do whatever you can to advance this project.

Thank you.

Dan and Jeanne Olson  
160 West Valley Acres  
Kalispell, MT 59901

406 755 3019  
jeaolson@cyberport.net



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Protect MT Resources

1 message

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**olsonsmeadow@gmail.com** <olsonsmeadow@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 2:01 PM

Attention Martha Williams MFWP and Angie Grove MT State Park Recreation Board.  
Please protect access to MT outdoors for all the citizens of MT. Thank you.  
Pamela Olson  
Helena MT

Sent from my iPhone

Laura Katzman

---

**From:** Robert O'Neil <b5t@bresnan.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 2:10 PM  
**To:** lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org  
**Subject:** Somers Beach

When I was a child the best place for a picnic weekends or evenings was Somers Beach.  
It was a new safe adventure every time to walk out almost 100 yards and still have the water come up m to your waist.  
And it's a great place to learn to swim.  
Is there anything I can do to help bring it back?

Bob O'Neil



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

---

**Somers beach!**

1 message

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**Holly Osterday** <hollyosterday@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 1, 2020 at 1:11 PM

One of our favorite places. So special to have somewhere SO BEAUTIFUL that's close to home. We love Somers beach.



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**6 attachments****image0.jpeg**  
101K**image1.jpeg**  
222K**image2.jpeg**  
229K**image3.jpeg**  
456K**image4.jpeg**



276K



**image5.jpeg**  
223K

April 8, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

**RE: Somers Beach Project**

Dear Martha and Angie,

I am supportive of creating a new public access site on the Sliter property on the north shore of Flathead Lake. The new public access site would provide much needed public recreational access on the north shore of Flathead Lake near Somers.

The new public access site would provide 55 acres of land to recreate on year-round along 0.4 miles of shoreline of Flathead Lake. New public access opportunities like that being proposed on the Sliter property are rare on Flathead Lake as much of its shoreline has been divided into small lots and developed. Although Flathead Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the western U.S. there are currently only 13 public access sites along its 185 miles of shoreline servicing a population of over 100,000 in addition to many tourists. The existing Somers Fishing Access Site on the west side of town is popular but very overcrowded, especially in the summer months with a growing number of users launching boats, swimming, and enjoying the lake. This existing access site is only two acres in size with a narrow short strip (50-75 feet wide and 250 feet long) along a busy highway and next to a crowded boat ramp used as a swimming area. The site is typically filled to capacity with boat trailers parked along U.S. Highway 93 as overflow which presents safety hazards. The space available at the current Somers site just does not meet the public demand for desired public use. In addition, there is limited year-round access to the north shore as much of it is the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area; which is closed to human use between March and July each year to protect migrating and nesting birds. The recreation area and public access to Flathead Lake that will result from this project would be open year-round to the public and would include desired amenities focused on people.

I am excited at the prospect of this new much needed and desired public access on the north shore of Flathead Lake. This project has amazing potential to increase outdoor recreation opportunities on a beautiful jewel in the Flathead Valley for future generations to come. I hope Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board can help facilitate this incredible project.

Sincerely,

Mike Pederson





andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Somers beach state park project Attention to: Angie Grove and Martha Williams**1 message

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**Chris Phillips** <phillips.christopher86@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Tue, Apr 7, 2020 at 3:47 PM

I heard about the proposed purchasing of the Slider family property to turn it into a state park. I think this would be a great idea and use of public resources. I grew up in Montana and my fondest memories being that of camping on Yellow Bay. Tourism is a huge part of Montana state revenue and drives many of the local communities surrounding the lake. Please consider the proposal in earnest as it will create many opportunities both recreationally and economically for current Montanans and generations to come.

Thank you,  
Christopher Phillips.



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support a NEW STATE PARK AT SOMERS**1 message

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**Jacolyn Phillips** <jacolynphillips@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 8:14 AM

Attention: Martha Williams MFWP , and Angie Grove with Montana State Parks and Recreation Board

Please, I'm begging you to support the acquisition of the Sliter property on the north shore of Flathead. Flathead Lake, is the blue magic of our state. Our residents and tourists need access now and for generations to come. I'm praying that the BNSF property will also be a part of the park. There could not be a better use of Montana's resources then a new Montana State Park on the north shore of Flathead Lake. Jackie Phillips



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Somers Beach

1 message

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**Jan Phillips** <fe.appys@cybernet1.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 9:00 AM

To Whom it May Concern

I'm voicing my concern regarding Somers Beach and the potential loss of this lovely stretch of beach to the public. The State of Montana needs to buy this stretch to retain it as a public beach.

Thank you!

Jan Phillips  
Forest Edge Appaloosas  
[fe.appys@cybernet1.com](mailto:fe.appys@cybernet1.com)  
[forestedgeappaloosas.com](http://forestedgeappaloosas.com)



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support for Somers Beach State Park**

1 message

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**Mishelle Phillips** <mishphillips413@gmail.com>  
To: ProtectSomersBeach@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 10:30 AM

Dear Angie Grove and Martha Williams,

I am definitely in support of creating a Somers Beach State Park. I have enjoyed taking my family walking out on the sand for several years. My boys are now in college, but every spring, when they were younger, we would enjoy an adventure on the sand flats of Somers. Usually we would visit during spring break, when we would have some extra time to explore our beautiful valley. My husband was born and raised here in this valley. He used to enjoy visiting the beach at Somers, when he was younger, too. We both enjoy being able to walk out on the sand in early spring before the lake fills in. Please work to create this park so that the people in our community can continue to enjoy Somers Beach. The other state parks on Flathead Lake are heavily populated during the summer months, as I'm sure that Somers Beach would be, as well. I believe that the creation of another state park on the lake would help to reduce overcrowding, at the other state parks, during the summer months. As you can see, I have many reasons that I believe would support the creation of a public access point to Somers Beach. Thank you for your consideration and for your time.

Sincerely,

Mishelle Phillips

Sent from my iPhone

March 29, 2020

Angie Grove, Montana State Parks & Recreation Board  
Martha Williams, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
PO Box 200701  
Helena, Montana 59620

Regarding the Somers Beach Project

I spent most of my adult life living in Oregon. The State of Oregon has always believed that natural places (lakes, beaches, etc.) are for all. The lakes there are not built up with private homes and estates. Some lakes have one or two resorts, but that is all. Access for everyone is plentiful.

Upon arriving in Montana, I was appalled at the amount of private ownership on Flathead Lake, as well as other smaller lakes. This should never have happened! It is, of course, too late to right this mistake. However, it is my belief that any piece of land that becomes available should be protected for the use of everyone.

I have been at the Sliter property/old Somers beach in question. It is a unique and lovely spot – a relatively large piece of undeveloped land with Flathead Lake frontage. I most certainly hope that you protect and preserve this area no matter the cost.

Hopefully, in the future, as sites on any Montana lake or stream become available keeping them out of private ownership will be the highest priority.

Marty Pierson  
Kalispell, Montana



andrea goudge &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

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## Somers beach

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**Raina Pratt** <raina@enjoymontana.com>

Tue, Mar 24, 2020 at 3:13 PM

To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Hello,

My name is Raina Pratt. I am a resident of Somers, MT. We are very excited about the prospect of having a public beach access in Somers. It would be a fantastic addition to you the whole Flathead Valley and especially the community of Somers. We are a family of six with four kids and we love to walk to the beach and have places to access the lake. It is such a beautiful area and we would love to see it developed and shared well. We are in full support and excited for an incredible addition to our community, neighborhood and family!

Thank you,

Raina Pratt

Certified MT Property Manager

Enjoy Montana Vacation Rentals

[www.enjoymontana.com](http://www.enjoymontana.com)

**andrea goudge** <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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**We support Somers Beach**

1 message

**Laura Price** <lauraprice1217@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 27, 2020 at 12:49 PM

To: "protectsomersbeach@gmail.com" &lt;protectsomersbeach@gmail.com&gt;

My husband and I just recently visited Somers Beach. It is a beautiful gift. Families were playing, flying kites, throwing frisbees...dogs chasing balls...

It would be a shame if it wasn't available to the public. We need to preserve our wild spaces for present and future nature lovers.

Best,  
Laura Price

Brenda and Ron Profitt  
100 Hathaway Lane  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
406-871-2501  
March 26, 2020

Angie Grove, Chair, Montana State Parks & Recreation Board  
Martha Williams - Director, Montana Fish Wildlife and Park

RE: Possible Somers Beach Public Access on Flathead Lake

This project is so exciting to me and my family. We recreate on Flathead Lake many times weekly during the spring, summer and fall each year and have for over 40 years. We have witnessed the increase in boat traffic, pedestrian traffic and highway traffic over the past several years. The Somers Boat Launch is a great access point to Flathead Lake, but has become over-used, overcrowded and unsafe to access for many. There is not adequate parking for the boat owners with trailers and not adequate for day use or swimming access. The addition of the swimming area to the east of the boat launch was a nice improvement, but now has also become overcrowded. Many boat owners park their vehicles with trailers all along the entrance to the parking area. This has created a very unsafe situation for all. We highly support a new beach public access in Somers. This is a great investment in our community as well as for conservation of our valuable Flathead Lake.

Sincerely,



Brenda and Ron Profitt

March 25, 2020

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Angie Grove, Chair  
Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

RE: **Somers Beach Project**

Dear Martha and Angie,

I support creating a new public access site on the Sliter property along the north shore of Flathead Lake near Somers. This new site would provide much needed public recreational access in this area.

The new public access and state park site would provide 55 acres of land to recreate on year-round, along 0.4 miles of Flathead Lake shoreline. Opportunities like that being proposed on the Sliter property are rare on Flathead Lake, as much of its shoreline has been divided into small lots and developed. Although Flathead Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the western U.S., there are only 13 public access sites along its 185 miles of shoreline, servicing a population of over 100,000 and many tourists.

The existing Somers Fishing Access Site, on the west side of town, is popular and very overcrowded, especially in the summer months with a growing number of users launching boats, swimming, and enjoying the lake. This access site is only two acres in size, with a narrow, short strip (50-75 feet wide and 250 feet long) along a busy highway, and next to a crowded boat ramp used as a swimming area. The site is typically filled to capacity, with boat trailers parked along US Highway 93 as overflow. All this summer activity at this site presents significant safety hazards.

The space available at the current Somers site does not just meet the public demand for desired public use. In addition, year-round access to the north shore is limited, as much of it is within the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area, which is closed to public use between March and July each year to protect migrating and nesting birds. The proposed recreation area and public access to Flathead Lake will be open year-round to the public, and would include desired amenities focused on the community.

I am excited at the prospect of this new, much needed and desired public access on the north shore of Flathead Lake. This project has amazing potential to increase outdoor recreation opportunities on a beautiful jewel in the Flathead Valley for future generations to come. I hope Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board can help facilitate this incredible project.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bangeman Prugh  
Lakeside property owner since 1959



andrea goudge <protectsomersbeach@gmail.com>

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## Somers Beach State Park

1 message

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**Wendy Putzler** <wputzler@gmail.com>  
To: protectsomersbeach@gmail.com

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 10:32 AM

I am writing in favor of a Somers Beach State Park. We love to enjoy that area with our family and friends during the winter and spring. A state park would ensure that the beach is preserved, the wildlife protected, and the space available to the public.

It has always been my concern that a lack of understanding would be bad for the birds who nest in that area. A managed state park could help with this effort. Additionally, this would also provide great learning opportunities for Somers students who want to take field trips down there.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback. We would love a Somers Beach State Park!

Wendy Putzler